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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

AFFAIRS OF THE LEVANT.

PART III.

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Foreign Office, May, 1841.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

No.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

AFFAIRS OF THE LEVANT.

PART III.

Foreign Office, January 1841.

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CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

THE AFFAIRS OF THE LEVANT.

PART III.

No. 1.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 308.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 2, 1840.

BARON NEUMANN has probably put your Lordship in possession of the contents of the despatches which my Austrian Colleague received from Prince Metternich on Friday last, and of which he has been instructed to communicate some parts to the French Government.

Count Appony made this communication to M. Guizot yesterday, who expressed satisfaction with the pacific tenour of the communication, which he considered as implying the hope that France would be party to an arrangement of the Affairs of the East. He, however, regretted to find that the language of Prince Metternich was vague, and that there was no specific proposition which would enable the French Government to state to the Chambers that negotiations were on foot between France and the Powers who had signed the Treaty of July.

M. Villemain, the Minister of Public Instruction, called upon me this day, and as he is one of the most able orators, and a leading Member of the Cabinet, it may not be uninteresting to your Lordship to be made acquainted with the substance of his conversation with me.

He was not as confident as M. Guizot that the Ministry will have a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, and he said that their difficulties would be insurmountable, if a determination should appear on the part of the Allied Powers, whatever may be their success in Syria, to settle the Question of the East, excluding France from all consultation as to the conditions of peace between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali. I said I could not doubt that any pacific arrangement between the Porte and Mehemet Ali would be far more satisfactory to the Sultan and his Allies, if France should concur in that settlement; but I could not suppose that if the population of Syria, supported by the Turks and their Allies, should compel the Egyptians to evacuate Syria, the re-imposing the yoke of Mehemet Ali upon any part of that province could be contemplated by the French Government. He said that it was the appearance of making light of the opinion of France on a great European question which would overset any ministry in this country which submitted to such humiliation, and that it would entail a rancour against other Powers, even if public feeling did not force the Government into immediate war, which would render precarious the preservation of peace.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 2.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 311.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 5, 1840.

I RECEIVED, late last night, by the messenger, your Lordship's despatches Nos. 312 and 313, and I this morning, at eight o'clock, transmitted to M. Guizot a copy of No. 312.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 3.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 317.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 6, 1840.

M. GUIZOT this morning read to me a despatch which he had addressed to Baron Bourqueney on Wednesday last, with the view of opening the way to an understanding between France and the Powers who are parties to the Treaty of July, on the settlement of the Eastern Question.

The French Chargé d'Affaires having received instructions to communicate to you this despatch, it is unnecessary for me to state its contents, but I have to report to your Lordship the substance of a conversation which ensued between the French Minister and me on the same subject.

M. Guizot mentioned to me that the Baron Bulow, since his return to London from Berlin, in talking with M. Bourqueney respecting the expediency of France being party to a pacific arrangement between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, had suggested that an agreement should be entered into for the suspension of hostilities on a certain day, and that the question whether the Pashalic of Acre be conceded by the Treaty of Peace to the Pasha of Egypt, should depend upon the Fortress of Acre being actually in possession of the Egyptians or of the Turks at the period of the suspension of hostilities. M. Guizot said that the French Government had this objection to Baron Bulow's suggestion, that France by the adoption of it would adhere to an arrangement more disadvantageous to Mehemet Ali than the Treaty of July, inasmuch as by that agreement, the Pasha would be bound to give up, not only all that he was called upon to surrender by that Treaty, but possibly the Pashalic of Acre in addition. The proposition would be fairer, and one to which the French Government might agree, if the basis of the negotiation for peace should be the state of actual possession in the whole of Syria, by the contending parties, on a certain day to be fixed, for the suspension of hostilities; that is, if Aleppo and Damascus, and the Oriental part of Syria, were still occupied by the Egyptians, that abandonment of it should be compensated by giving to the Pasha an equivalent elsewhere. I observed to M. Guizot, that the Pasha of Egypt had been forewarned by the Articles of the Treaty itself, of the consequences of his compelling the Sultan and his Allies to have recourse to measures of coercion; and that, after the call that had been made upon the Syrians to throw off the Egyptian yoke, the Sultan was bound in honour to the people who had risen in support of his rights, not to abandon them to the mercy of Mehemet Ali; that if the Pashalic of Acre were restored to its legitimate Sovereign by the efforts of its inhabitants, aided and encouraged by the Turks and their Allies, the Allied Powers could not advise the Sultan to place them again under the Egyptian dominion. M. Guizot admitted that the Sultan might reasonably refuse to abandon the Syrians, who had raised the Turkish standard, and re-established the authority of the Porte, but he suggested that some compensation might be found for Mehemet Ali by leaving Candia under his Government.

Unless some compensation of this sort be made by the Allies, France cannot concur in any pacific arrangement between the Sultan and the Viceroy, or exert her influence to induce the latter to accept the conditions of peace imposed upon him; "and is it worth while," said M. Guizot, "for the sake of excluding the Pasha of Egypt from the Government of Candia during the few years of life that now remain to him, to risk the dangerous consequences that may result to all the world, from France not concurring in the settlement of the peace in the East; for it cannot be doubted, that the want of such concurrence will render precarious such settlement, as well as expose to hazard the peace of the West of Europe."

M. Guizot assured me, that the French Government had no other intelligence respecting the military events in the Levant, than that which had been published in the ministerial journals last night, and copied into all the newspapers of this morning. That this intelligence was most unfavourable to the Pasha could not be denied, but it did not appear to him to be at all conclusive as to Ibrahim Pasha being unable to maintain possession of the plains to the eastward of the mountains, or as to his being under the necessity of evacuating the towns of Aleppo and Damascus, or the passes of the Taurus.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 324.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 9, 1840.

THE proposition made by M. Guizot, in his despatch to the Baron de Bourqueney of Wednesday last, was not one to which the King or his Minister, I believe, had even the hope of obtaining the assent of your Lordship, or of the Representatives of the other Powers. They could not expect, that after the success which has attended the operations of the Turks and their Allies on the coast of Syria, and at a moment when intelligence is daily expected of the fall of St. Jean d'Acre, the Allies could advise the Sultan to accord to Mehemet Ali more favourable conditions of peace than those offered to him by the Treaty of July, and before the inability of the Egyptian Army to maintain possession of the most important points in Syria had been so clearly manifested; but the proposition which was made by M. Guizot in conversation with me on Friday, and respecting which he told me yesterday he had since written to the Baron Bourqueney, they flatter themselves may be more favourably listened to. I should be sorry indeed to find that neither the proposition itself, nor any modification of it, could be entertained by your Lordship, because, notwithstanding the unexpectedly large majority obtained by Ministers, upon their first trial of strength in the Chamber of Deputies, I apprehend that they would have great difficulty in carrying on the pacific policy announced in the King's speech, if it shall appear to the Chambers that the parties to the Treaty of July are determined to carry out the provisions of the Treaty, and to settle the conditions of peace between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, without allowing France to have a voice upon the question. I know that many Deputies, the friends of peace and good order, to whom it is indifferent whether St. Jean d'Acre be in the hands of the Sultan or the Pasha of Egypt, have a feeling that the dignity and honour of France will suffer, if the Allies reject the overtures of the French Government to come to an understanding with the Allies as to the future existence of Mehemet Ali, and who will be satisfied if the Ministers shall be able to show by the subsequent conduct of the Allies, that the regret which they have all expressed that France was not a party to the Alliance, was perfectly sincere.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 5.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 322.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 12, 1840.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 317 of the 6th instant, I have to state to your Excellency, that M. de Bourqueney, to whom I showed that despatch, assures me that M. Guizot did not address to him any despatch on Wednesday, the 4th instant, but only wrote to him on that day a private letter, a part of which M. de Bourqueney read me confidentially last Saturday morning. The part of that letter which M. de Bourqueney read to me, stated, that M. Guizot wished to make a proposition to Her Majesty's Government, but would not like to do so, if he had reason to suppose that it would be rejected, and therefore he wished M. de Bourqueney, in the first instance, to ascertain from me, whether Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to make to France some sacrifice on the Turkish Question, independent of, that is to say, beyond the Treaty, in order to enable France to join the Alliance between the Four Powers and Turkey. I said to M. de Bourqueney, that her Majesty's Government is most desirous that France should join the Quintuple Alliance, but that I should only be deceiving M. Guizot, if I were to lead him to suppose that Her Majesty's Government could agree to anything beyond the Treaty; that the Treaty, having been concluded, must be executed; and I reminded him, that by the Treaty Mehemet Ali has lost all right to any part of Syria, and even to Egypt itself; though, with respect to the latter province, it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that the Sultan would do well to reinstate him, if he should submit completely, and at an early moment. I said, moreover, that our successes in Syria have been so rapid and signal that we may assume, that the Sultan's authority is virtually re-established over the whole of that province; and that the discontent of the Egyptians is represented as being so great, that it is by no means impossible that the authority of Mehemet Ali in Egypt may be overthrown by the people themselves.

As it does not appear, from your Excellency's report of your conversation with M. Guizot on the 6th instant, that M. Guizot requested you to make any proposition to Her Majesty's Government, it is not necessary for me to give your Excellency any instructions to make to M. Guizot any other reply than that which you made at the time to what fell from him. But I cannot refrain from remarking, that the notion that Her Majesty's Government could consent, out of deference to the wishes of France, to suspend operations, which Great Britain is carrying on upon the coast of Syria in fulfilment of the engagements of a Treaty concluded with Four other Powers, is, to say the least of it, somewhat extraordinary; and you acted very properly in giving no encouragement whatever to such a suggestion.

M. Guizot seems, indeed, in the whole of the conversation to have gone upon the assumption, that the Treaty of July last is not to be executed, and that the only thing to be considered is, what mode of breaking that Treaty would be the least disagreeable to the Contracting Parties. But the Allies intend that the Treaty shall be carried into execution; and, therefore, it seems useless to discuss the relative merits of the various ways of setting it aside.

No doubt the Five Powers, who are parties to the Treaty of July, would gladly have the accession of France to that Treaty; and Her Majesty's Government are persuaded, that if France were willing to accede to it, and thus to become a party to the settlement of the peace in the Levant, all the Contracting Parties would joyfully accept her accession. But it is not at first sight evident what the dangerous consequences are, which, M. Guizot says, may result to the world, from France not concurring in, that is to say, I presume, not being a co-operating party to, this settlement; nor is it manifest in what way the want of the concurrence of France will render the settlement precarious, and expose to hazard the

peace of the West of Europe. France might indeed be tempted, though it is scarcely supposable she should be so, to interpose, while affairs are still pending, and to endeavour, by force of arms, to prevent a settlement distasteful to her, and calculated to defeat her unavowed designs; but, when once that settlement has been effected, and the authority of the Sultan has been re-established in his own dominions, France cannot hope to reverse such an arrangement, even if she were to take up arms to endeavour to do so, which it is quite impossible to suppose she would. For, even if she had strength sufficient to make the attempt, her recorded pledges to the Sultan must prevent her from doing so, as long as her Government continues to attach any value to a character for good faith.

The anxiety of Her Majesty's Government to obtain the co-operation of France, arose not from any feeling that such co-operation was indispensably necessary to give permanent stability to the arrangement when effected, but chiefly because such co-operation would have ensured the prompt submission of Mehemet Ali, and would therefore have led to a more easy and speedy accomplishment of the object in view.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 6.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 323.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 13, 1840.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 324 of the 9th instant, I have to state to your Excellency, that, as I have already informed you by my despatch No. 322, M. de Bourqueney denies having received any despatch from M. Guizot, such as your Excellency states M. Guizot to have read to you on the 6th instant; and I have not as yet received any official proposition or communication from M. Guizot through M. de Bourqueney.

With respect to the feelings which your Excellency states to be entertained by some of the Deputies, that the Four Powers, in order to prove the sincerity of their regret that France is not a party to the Alliance, ought to consent to abstain from carrying the Treaty into execution, I have to observe, that such reasoning is unsound, and rests upon an erroneous foundation. The Four Powers have invariably, and with the utmost sincerity, expressed their regret that France is not a party to the Treaty which they have concluded with the Porte; but they have never expressed regret at having concluded that Treaty; nor have they ever stated, that, because France did not choose to be a party to the arrangement which that Treaty is to effect, they would on that account abstain from effecting that arrangement. If such had been the feeling of the Four Powers, and if they had been of opinion, that no arrangement of the Turkish Question could be carried into effect, but such an one as France would be a party to, they ought not to have concluded the Treaty of July, and to have taken towards each other, and towards the Sultan, the engagements which that Treaty contains.

The Four Powers have, from the beginning, felt great regret that the determination of France not to join in any coercive measures against Mehemet Ali, rendered it impossible for France to be a party to the Treaty; but it would be very much to mistake the nature of their regret, to suppose that it implies a willingness to allow France to have a voice whether a Treaty, to which she is not a party, shall be executed or not. I apprehend that nothing but the overwhelming force of any Power could entitle it to prescribe to other Powers to refrain from executing the engagements of a Treaty; and there is no Power now existing in Europe

strong enough to impose its own will in such a manner upon other States.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 7.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord,

Berlin, October 26, 1840.

I COMMUNICATED to Baron Werther the despatch of the 13th instant, No. 195, addressed by your Lordship to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and his Excellency desired me to say that the instructions contained therein had his entire approbation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 8.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, October 6, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on the 26th ultimo, Colonel Galisse, a French officer of Engineers, arrived here by a Government steamer from Toulon; he immediately inspected all the fortifications in the city and along the coast, and is now preparing plans for a comprehensive scheme of defence, including the erection of batteries at Aboukir, and at the new or eastern harbour, as well as the refortification of the heights which formed the French lines during the invasion of 1801.

Great discontent prevails amongst the Turks on board the fleet, in consequence of the substitution of Arab for Turkish officers; this dissatisfaction often borders on mutiny, and a report is current that it is agitated to send them to garrison the city of Cairo.

M. de Weimar, said to be the newly-appointed French Consul-General for Bagdad, has arrived here on his way to that city, and has had repeated conferences with Mehemet Ali.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 9.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 238.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 14, 1840.

YOUR Lordship will have received information from Alexandria, as I have done, under date 27th September, that M. Cochelet persuaded Mehemet Ali to desist from the execution of his intention to send out the Egyptian fleet, or a portion of it, to drive away the British ships of war from before that port.

I take this to be a farce got up to satisfy French vanity, and to keep up the fallacious notions of the Pasha's power; but it is a warning to us of what the Pasha could do, and infallibly would do, with his fleet, were the project of the Admiral to withdraw the British squadron from the theatre of war to be carried into execution.

I have been informed that Tahir Pasha says our fleet can remain safely in the Bay of Iskenderoun during the winter, and it would be there almost at hand to act as occasion might require, and would secure Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 10.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 242.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 19, 1840.

SIR CHARLES SMITH sent me by Colonel Hodges the sacred standard, as it is called, of Ibrahim Pasha, taken in the field on the 10th instant. Sir Charles Smith said nothing as to the disposal of the standard. I have determined to deliver it to the Sultan at an audience, believing that it may be advantageous to call public attention to this first signal trophy, won by the valour of the Sultan's troops, from the previously successful army of Mehemet Ali. I shall take that opportunity for presenting to the Sultan Colonel Hodges, who was in the field where the standard was won.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

October 12, 1840.

*Inclosure in Sir C. Smith's Handwriting.—*By Captain Ford, I send the flag of Beyrout, and the standard of the troops that surrendered to me yesterday morning.

No. 11.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 243.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 19, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose despatches I received yesterday from Syria, brought by Colonel Hodges.

I beg to call your attention to Mr. Wood's despatches. In the despatch from General Jochmus, will be found most satisfactory proof of the sagacity with which Commodore Napier adapts his measures to the circumstances under which he acts, and the felicitous audacity with which he carries them into execution.

What has been done in Syria by Commodore Napier, by General Jochmus, and by Captain Walker, and the brave men under their command, has destroyed the spell of Mehemet Ali's fortune, and shows that Ibrahim's boasted skill and valour are nothing when met by such men as those above named. The Turkish soldiers, heretofore cowed by defeats, due to the ignorance, or corruption, or cowardice of their Generals, are now said to be elated with a just confidence in themselves under honest and wise commanders, and have shown that valour, for which their nation has been formerly so highly celebrated.

It will not be the fault of the soldiers hereafter, if Syria and Egypt be not restored to the possession of their legitimate Sovereign.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

Ottoman flag-ship, off Djounie,

October 8, 1840.

My Lord,

AGREEABLY to your Lordship's directions under date of the 6th of September, to assist Izzet Pasha in the distribution of the Sultan's proclamation to be published in Syria, I have waited on his Excellency, and have offered him my services in whatever he thought I could be of use to him.

On Izzet Pasha's reply that he had brought with him no proclamation, I begged he would furnish me with copies of the Sultan's firman, bearing his nomination to the Pashalic of Acre, and his own "Boyourouldi" to the Sheiks and Emirs, as noted per margin*, calling upon them to return to their duty to the Sultan, and confirming them in the Government of their several districts.

His Excellency acceded immediately to my request, and I lost no time in forwarding them to the individuals to whom they were addressed. Since then, a great number of similar documents have been drawn up and distributed.

I have distinctly stated to Izzet Pasha that, previous to his arrival, I had declared to the Syrians, by your Lordship's authority, that the Porte would grant them their ancient rights and privileges if they returned to their allegiance to the Sultan; and as I knew it was in consequence of such promises they were encouraged to the degree of again revolting against the Egyptian Authorities only a few weeks after they had laid down their arms, I sincerely trusted and fully expected his Excellency would now, by virtue of his authority in Syria, execute all I had promised in the name of your Excellency.

Izzet Pasha answered that he would, but in a tone that did not satisfy me that he would. Since then I have spoken to him again on the subject, and argued with him on the prudence of abolishing a number of taxes which are altogether illegal, and are even unknown in other parts of the Turkish Empire. These taxes and imposts will have to be abolished so soon as the Sultan's authority is established throughout the country, being contrary to the Hatti-Scheriff; and were they to be abolished at once it would create a most favourable moral effect in the country, and would undoubtedly encourage the nation to redouble their exertions in support of their Sovereign. Besides which, Ibrahim Pasha is making similar concessions to the Syrians, and it becomes therefore doubly incumbent on the Porte not to delay the execution of a measure that promises so much present good.

I have alluded to the same subject in my letter of the 3rd instant to Izzet Pasha; but he replied to me verbally that he preferred waiting for instructions from the Porte relative to the principles on which he was to govern Syria, before he took any responsibility upon himself. Nevertheless, I cannot help thinking that we are giving Ibrahim Pasha an advantage over us by his hesitation in a matter that requires none.

I have also suggested to his Excellency that the discharge of the Syrian conscripts who are our prisoners would greatly promote the cause of the Sultan. There are no less than 16,000 of them in the Egyptian Army, who, when liberated, would fight for him so long as their future liberty depended on the success of his arms.

I have reason to believe that though in many instances his Excellency pretends to concur with me in opinion on these subjects, yet he takes no trouble to follow out my suggestions the moment I leave him. I have been also endeavouring to persuade him to use the greatest courtesy to-

* Sheiks,—Mustapha el Lahm, Gatman, Ibrahim, Gaber; Kady of Jaffa,—Muhammed Narr, Adly, Siya; Naib of Tripoli,—Aben Suleiman; Naib of Gaza,—Tihan; Tribes of Arabs; Naib of Ramla,—Mustapha, Abou Dervish, Abou Sekin, &c., &c.

wards the Princes and the Sheiks in his camp, without exception, and not to make any distinctions, by which he will lay the seeds of jealousy amongst them, and will make them attend more to their private feuds than to the public service.

In order that my representations may have some weight with him, I have given him explicitly to understand that I was sent here by your Lordship, that I was authorised to make a number of promises to the Syrians, (the nature of which I specified,) and that I was in a manner pledged to see them executed by the Sultan's officers.

I trust your Lordship will not be led to infer from the foregoing that any difference exists between us; on the contrary, we are on the most cordial terms together, and in many instances he is pleased to consult me and abide by my advice; but as the executive rests with him, it does not always depend upon me to make him follow up his good intentions. He is, however, full of energy and zeal; though I may be permitted to say, that I do not consider him the fittest person to govern these countries after the termination of the war.

Since writing the above, I have received the Grand Vizier's very handsome letter, conveying the Porte's authority for me to act in Syria. I feel confident that so soon as the Pasha sees it, he will pay more attention to my suggestions.

The possession of this document is another mark of your Lordship's confidence,—the more gratifying to me as I feel I do not deserve it. In expressing my grateful thanks for it, allow me to assure your Excellency, that no exertions shall be wanting on my part to render myself worthy of the approbation of my superiors.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

Ottoman flag-ship, off Djounie,

October 10, 1840.

My Lord,

ON the 20th of September I embarked on board the steamer "Cyclops," to reconnoitre the coast from Beyrout to Sidon, and to communicate with the inhabitants of that part of Mount Lebanon which descends to the sea, to agree on the manner of arming them. At Sidon I found the Egyptians busy in fortifying and barricading the town and streets. The result of my observations I have communicated to the Admiral in my letter of the 22nd ultimo, (a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith under No. 1); and his Excellency having decided upon an attack on Sidon, I was received on board His Majesty's ship "Thunderer," on the 24th, and proceeded off Sidon, taking up our position close to the castle and town. On the 26th, Commodore Napier joined us with a few Turkish troops and marines, in all not exceeding 1,400. The town was then duly summoned; and on the refusal of the Authorities to give it up, it was bombarded, and a landing was effected. In four hours and a half it was taken by assault, and the whole garrison, composed of nearly 3,000 Egyptians, including the officers, were taken prisoners. We did not lose altogether more than five men, and had only thirty-two wounded. The whole action was a most gallant one, and not sufficient praise can be bestowed on the officers who conducted the assault, particularly on Admiral Walker, who headed the Turkish troops; and who, after taking possession of the castle, was the first to rush into the town, with a handful of Turks, and drive back the enemy from their barricades.

While I congratulate your Lordship on the success of the Turkish arms, as the chief promoter and supporter of the Expedition, I may be allowed to pay a passing tribute to the justness of the opinion your Lord-

ship formed of the worthlessness of the Egyptian troops and of the power of Mehemet Ali, which is at best but little more than nominal in Syria.

The capture of Sidon has produced a great sensation in the country, inasmuch as it has considerably lowered the Egyptians in the estimation of the natives; and has shown them that, far from being irresistible, they are inferior to the troops brought against them.

On the following day, I had the Divan of Sidon, composed of natives, assembled, and read to them a copy of the firman bearing Izzet Pasha's nomination, with which he had furnished me, his own Boyourouldi, and an Arabic version of the Convention; after which I proceeded to the nomination of a Governor, in the name of his Excellency. All the other public officers were confirmed in their places, and were charged to send in returns of all the public stores of every nature, particularly in arms and ammunition. Every thing was done in the name of the Sultan. Public prayers were offered by the Mufti for the success of his arms; and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed by all classes of His Highness's subjects, to whom I distinctly stated that henceforth they should be governed according to the Hatti Scheriff, and all illegal taxes and imposts should be abolished.

I beg to inclose a copy of the letter the Divan addressed to Izzet Pasha, and a copy of the one I wrote to his Excellency, I am glad in being able to state that his Excellency has confirmed the Governor, at Captain Berkeley's and my request; and I sincerely trust he will also take my suggestions into consideration.

My proposal to the Admiral to arm the inhabitants of Damour, (a district nine miles to the north of Sidon, and within four hours' march of Deir-el-Kammar, the capital of the mountains, and of the residence of the Emir Bechir,) had for object, first, the harassing of Solyman Pasha's left flank; secondly, the cutting off of his retreat on his rear, over the mountains,—Djounie and Sidon being in our possession; and, thirdly, that of offering facilities to the great Prince to come to us, or of forcing him into submission. In consequence, on the 29th, Captain Berkeley and myself, with about a hundred marines, proceeded on board the steamer "Stromboli," and disembarked at the River d'Amour, from whence I addressed immediately a circular letter, to the Princes and Sheiks, as noted per margin*, of the surrounding villages, who came down and were armed accordingly. The four Princes accompanied me to Djounie to pay personally their respects to the Pasha, whom I induced to present each with a sword, and to give them their Boyourouldis, as sub-governors of their several districts. The Princes, who are related to the great Prince, were highly gratified, and have been sent back with an order to receive 1,000 muskets more to guard the passage to Deir-el-Kammar, and prevent all communication between Ibrahim Pasha, who is actually at the latter place, and Solyman Pasha, encamped with a very few troops and sixteen field-pieces, at a place called Merge, a league beyond Beyrout.

I addressed a letter also from thence to the Sheik of Deir-el-Kammar, Yautoush-el-Hadad. The Sheik came personally to Sidon to offer his and his people's submission; but stated that, as Ibrahim Pasha was there with about 4,000 men, it was impossible for the inhabitants to leave their families and come for arms; as the moment it became known to him, he would revenge himself on their families, and burn their homes in their absence. He proposed, however, that the armed mountaineers in the neighbourhood should march in a body to Deir-el-Kammar, supported by a body of our troops, having arms for distribution, when the inhabitants would meet and assist us in driving the Egyptians out of it. The Honourable Captain Berkeley and myself were contemplating such an expedition, when intelligence that Ibrahim Pasha had brought together 4,000 troops, made us relinquish our intention for the moment, being too weak to attempt it alone.

Once Deir-el-Kammar taken, the whole of the mountains of Lebanon are ours, and Ibrahim Pasha must either shut himself up in Acre or must retreat beyond them; leaving to our undisputed possession both them and

* Emir Jousuf, Emir Melham, Emir Abdallah, Emir Ismael; Sheiks,—Janus Murad, Lahoud Asaf, Auton Hauna, Abou Mansour, Nadir, Laloum, Laloum Nadir.

the sea-coast; for the nature of the country is such, that it would be impossible for him to remain near the coast, if we are in possession of the whole range of Mount Lebanon. The mountains descend nearly to the sea, which would place his Army, on many points, within range of the guns of our ships, and in all others between us and the armed peasantry.

Your Lordship will excuse the mention of the above details, which I only give with the view to show how limited is now the country left for Ibrahim Pasha to act in. He is surrounded with difficulties; there is no option left him, and he must either shut himself up in Acre, leaving Syria to us, or he must retreat beyond Lebanon, which I think he will do in preference to the former alternative.

The country to the south of Sidon, as far as Acre, is inhabited by Mutualis, who are in favour of the Sultan. While at Sidon, I sent them a letter, calling upon them to take arms in defence of their disregarded rights and privileges. In their answer, they express their entire devotedness to the Porte, and their willingness to tender personally their submission. They, moreover, sent a confidential agent to inform me that Ibrahim Pasha had demanded 2,000 of their clients to co-operate with his army against us, but that they had refused to comply with his demand under various pretexts, and begged to be furnished forthwith with 3,000 stand of arms, both to defend themselves, and to take possession of the Pass of Ras Nakoura, and the country beyond it. This pass secured, all communication between Acre and Ibrahim Pasha will be cut off. Besides which, no troops can be brought from the latter place, either to Tsour or Sidon, to attack us. Notwithstanding I was called away from Sidon the day three of the Sheiks came to take away the arms, Captain Berkeley undertook to give them, with the necessary quantity of ammunition, assisted by the British Agent there. On my part, I have asked and have obtained from the Pasha a Boyourouldi for each Sheik, confirming them in their several posts, with the condition that they use all their efforts in the support of their legitimate Sovereign against Mehemet Ali.

On the 20th instant Kaiffa was taken by a squadron of two English and one Turkish frigate. They took off two mortars, four field-pieces, a quantity of arms and ammunition, and destroyed the rest before they abandoned the town.

The same squadron captured Tsour on the 24th, where a great quantity of grain and public stores were found. The garrison, about 1,200 men, retreated at night a league inland, where they continue to remain encamped.

On the 29th Selim Pasha and a body of marines marched against the enemy's outposts on the heights of the Dog River (Nahr el Kelb) and drove them back; and on the 4th instant the Emir Bechir (El Kasim) our friend, who joined us on the 30th, attacked, with about 1,000 mountaineers, Osman Pasha's division of the army, (amounting, as the Emir told me, to 5,000 men,) over which he obtained a signal victory, after a combat of six hours, killing and wounding above 300 of the enemy, and taking 600 prisoners and deserters. Osman Pasha estimates his total loss to 2,000 men, from which it would appear that many of his troops dispersed. He was himself wounded by a musket-shot, and has fled to Zahlé, a large Maronite village on the other side of Lebanon, bordering on the plains of the Bakaa.

The inhabitants of Tripoli, with the mountaineers of Beshiary and Emir Haugiar of Balbec, have themselves proposed to drive the garrison out of the town of Tripoli, if the Pasha gave them arms, to which his Excellency has acceded. A British squadron will co-operate with them. The Expedition is well combined, and leaves little doubt of its success. The people of Tripoli have too many wrongs to redress, to remain quiet spectators of what is going forward in Syria, without making an effort to free themselves from the yoke of the Egyptians.

Similar measures are in operation in regard to Lattachia. Natives have been appointed to both places as governors. There are great quantities of public stores, arms, and ammunition in these two towns, and

their capture will greatly distress the Egyptian army at Marash and Aleppo.

Ibrahim Pasha is actually at Ibteddein, or Deir-el-Kammar, with about 1,500 men, undecided how to act. At one moment he proposes encamping near Sidon, and hazarding an attempt at retaking it; at another, of collecting together all his forces, and attacking us. He entertains, also, an idea of throwing himself into Acre, or of retreating to the Valley of the Orontes. In fact, my Lord, he is quite perplexed how to act; he is now convinced the whole country is decidedly opposed to him, and he is aware that were he to throw himself into Acre, Syria is lost to him, and were he to retire into the interior, he must leave us in possession of the whole coast and of the mountains.

The natives tell me positively that the feeling is such at Acre, that it would surrender to any squadron that bombarded it for half an hour. The troops composing the garrison are, for the most part, disaffected; and I am even assured that, not long since, the Governor was obliged to take the arms out of the hands of the artillery to prevent mischief. The men in the galleys are waiting with anxiety for the moment to fall on their jailors to obtain their liberation.

I have stated the foregoing to the Admiral with the remark that, if the opportunity be lost and time be given to Ibrahim Pasha to shut himself up in it, it will require a very long siege. The objection to making the attempt arises, I believe, from a disinclination to expose the fleet to be disabled at a moment a war is anticipated with France. To remove this objection I have read to the Admiral your Lordship's letter of the 6th of September, containing the following paragraph, "and Her Majesty's Government expects the Admiral to carry the orders and instructions he has received into execution, without regard to the opposition that may be made by any Foreign Power." The other objection was, that after we had taken it, we had not sufficient troops to hold it. It is, however, obvious that if Abdallah Pasha defended Acre with only 1,200 disorganized troops for eight months against 25,000 men, it could be held by a garrison of 1,000 Turkish Nizam for a few weeks until succour could be thrown into it, now that the place is ten times stronger, and Ibrahim Pasha can never bring the same number of troops against it. The possession of Acre is of such an immense importance as to authorize almost any common risk.

Though I cannot assert anything positive with regard to the taking of Beyrout, yet I believe it to be the intention of the Admiral to make the attempt soon. Admiral Walker is using his utmost endeavour to press on Sir Robert the necessity of capturing it, to make it the winter quarters of the Army. Besides its central position, its bay affords a convenient anchorage for the fleet, in the event of our not making Acre our winter quarters.

The number of prisoners taken since the 10th of September	
amounts to - - - - -	2,924
Deserters - - - - -	1,927
Total - - - - -	4,851

900 of whom are in the pay, and serving under the standard, of the Sultan. The Syrians continue to manifest the most enthusiastic feeling in favour of the Sultan. Already 20,000 stand of arms have been distributed, and still thousands come daily to ask for more, which we cannot give them until the arrival of the "Cambridge." In conclusion, I have the satisfaction of assuring your Lordship that the cause of the Sultan is progressing beyond our most sanguine expectations. His Highness' arms have been successful everywhere, supported throughout by the natives, who repair with confidence to his standard, as their only safeguard against misrule and oppression.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 3 in No 11.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

Ottoman flag-ship, off Djounie,
October 12, 1840.

My Lord,

THE disinclination of the Emir Bechir to join the Sultan's standard obliged me to grant him a term, not to injure further the interests of the Sultan in Syria, by permitting him to use his authority to our prejudice. On its expiration, I delivered on the 8th instant the firman superseding him, to Emir Bechir el Kasim, who has evinced, in many instances, his attachment and loyalty to the Sultan, and who has rendered himself worthy of his appointment, by his two successive defeats of the enemy.

The Ex-Emir has since put himself in communication with me, and has made known his intention of throwing himself on the clemency of his Imperial Master the Sultan. He is coming to the river Davour to-day, with his family, where I shall repair immediately on board a steamer to receive him.

By the very next opportunity, I shall do myself the honour of transmitting to your Lordship my correspondence with him, with a statement of the whole transaction. The Ex-Emir would have been always dangerous, whereas, by the appointment of the other, the Porte has gained a faithful adherent, whilst it has secured a formidable opponent. I have acted with the greatest circumspection throughout the whole negotiation, and I sincerely hope my conduct will meet with your Lordship's approbation.

Early on the morning of the 10th instant, Beyrout was evacuated by the Egyptians, the Imperial standard was hoisted, and the town garrisoned by the Sultan's troops, who are occupied in throwing up works to repel any future attack.

That nothing may be wanting to crown our undertakings with success, a general action was also fought yesterday (10th instant), between the Sultan's troops and the Egyptians on the heights, about four hours from our positions. The former were commanded by Commodore Napier and Selim Pasha, the latter by Ibrahim Pasha and Hassan Pasha (Bey). The Egyptians were totally defeated, and Ibrahim Pasha only escaped with seven men; the rest were dispersed, and 700 of them became our prisoners.

Mehemet Ali's power in this part of Syria is completely annihilated, and I conceive it to be impossible for him ever to regain his ground here, now that the mountains are ours, and Emir Bechir is secured.

Solyman Pasha, who was encamped near Beyrout, was obliged to abandon his position, leaving behind him nineteen pieces of ordnance, ammunition, and stores. He fled with only 500 men; the rest, amounting to 2,000, made their submission yesterday before the town of Beyrout. It is reported that 900 men are coming to follow their example. The number of deserters and prisoners amount, therefore, to 8,000 and upwards, which exceed our own numbers.

Beyrout, Sidon, and Tsour, are garrisoned by the Sultan's troops; Djebail and Batrouse by natives.

Allow me again, my Lord, to repeat my heartfelt congratulations on the signal and singular success of the expedition, originally composed of 5000 men!

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

General Jochmus to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Camp of Djounie, October 7, 1840.

HIS Highness Izzet Pasha communicated to me an official letter which he received from Constantinople, announcing to him that the

Sublime Porte had appointed me a General of Division; and although I have not yet received any communication from your Lordship on the subject, I know very well that I owe the nomination entirely to your Excellency.

I hope in the course of this war to prove, that it has not been entirely useless; it will be the best mode of expressing my sincere thanks.

Selim Pasha, also a Ferik, or General of Division, will now command all the troops here, Izzet Pasha having declared that he will only occupy himself with his affairs of Governor-General, which is the wisest thing he can do, as his meddling these last weeks has once brought us into a dangerous situation, he having detached troops without the Commodore or me knowing anything about it. The Admiral wrote to him on the subject, and now all is right; at least our difficulties are diminishing, and if Commodore Napier is allowed to go on as he began, you may expect good news from this quarter, the more so, as by the arrival of Captain Ford we received a new reinforcement of a battalion, and the news of another brigade coming immediately, and more troops later.

We can expect thus to see here soon from 15,000 to 18,000 men, and with that force, if they are tolerable troops, we may hope to do something decisive.

But troops, to be efficient, must be well equipped, and provided with the necessary stores. Izzet Pasha tells me that orders are given that plenty of provisions be sent to us from the Island of Cyprus and Carmania. I beg your Lordship will have inquiries made if these provisions can really be got there, and if there are means of transport at hand, or if we are to send the transports from hence.

Our troops now are without shoes, and all the men are obliged to make Albanian sandals from raw ox hides. In these mountains it is absolutely necessary that one should calculate on a soldier's using one pair of shoes a month. I hope that your Lordship will induce the Government to send us out immediately 20,000 pair of shoes, or, in case of necessity, a proportion of Albanian sandals.

Our present stock of musket ammunition amounts to 650 boxes, each at 1,200 rounds, being 780,000 rounds of ball cartridge, or about 100 rounds per man, of our present force. There ought to be at least 200 rounds per man in store, and consequently we want 650 boxes, of 1,200 rounds each, to be sent down here by the next steamer. If 10,000 men more are coming, they ought to have sent with them 24,600,000, or 2,000 boxes of musket-ball ammunition, besides 60 rounds in each man's pouch on starting from Constantinople.

Our hospitals are in a miserable state, or rather there were none at all, till I got one established about a week ago. I annex a list of things immediately required for our present force, and another list for the case we should be reinforced by 10,000 men.

Our means of transport are null, because the peasants who have furnished the mules are not regularly paid, and consequently they run away to the mountains; except the few that are regularly and daily paid by the Quarter-Master of the British Marines and Austrians, and who are very willing to serve. The muleteers and their animals are taken by force whenever they are required, which often makes us lose hours and days of precious time; for we cannot move without mules to carry ammunition and provisions.

The muleteers thus often refuse to load, and the soldiers and officers, who have strict orders to start by a given time, beat them till they go; and the quarrels become worse, because the people don't understand each other.

This produces much bad blood, and can have the most serious consequences in length of time, as we make disaffected people every day, of those who ought to fight for us.

We must absolutely change the system. At present, the Pasha orders, or pretends to order, the muleteers to be paid; his Kiahaya pretends to give the money to the Emir Abdallah (Civil Governor), who says he distributes it amongst the muleteers; but these swear that they never get one day's pay out of three, which I know to be the case.

This business is so serious, that I request your Lordship's earnest attention to it. When our Army will be augmented, we shall require at least 400 mules per diem, being an expense of 3,600 piasters a day, or 35%, forming about 1,000l. a month.

I propose that this sum should be sent down for this special purpose, for three months in advance, being 3,000l., and put in a military special chest, under orders of Sir Charles Smith, or any person he may appoint, and only so paid against cheques signed by me as Chief of the Staff, in conformity with the rules of all armies.

We always shall be crippled in our movements, if this is not done.

There are no Turkish nor English arms left for distribution; 20,000 have been given out.

If you send us down 10,000 stand more, they will immediately be disposed of. For each musket there ought to be sent 100 rounds of ammunition; consequently, for 10,000 muskets, 1,000,000 of rounds; besides we must have 1,000,000 of rounds,—total, 2,000,000, or 1,700 boxes,—to replace the ammunition spent by the mountaineers in their frequent skirmishes.

I have the honour to inclose a list of medicines required immediately by the medical department.

Your Lordship must also insist that 2,000 beds, with blankets and sheets, be sent to us for our hospitals, for wounded and sick men. Both are now lying on the bare floor, with no cover but their cloaks.

Your Lordship sees how magnificently and intelligently the expedition has been fitted out in Constantinople; and if your Lordship does not become our Quarter-Master-General, in the same way as you are really the General, who has conceived and foreseen the success of this expedition, which I know most people considered as madness, I am afraid that our difficulties will augment to such a degree, as to paralyse us completely.

But in order to be certain, your Lordship ought to appoint a person who must see the things started and embarked, handing to you a regular list of the shipment in each vessel, of which I beg your Lordship will send me copies in duplicates. I take great liberties in asking all these things, but I know your Lordship has our success at heart, and you ordered me to tell the truth, which I must do.

I read this letter to Commodore Napier, who fully agrees with me in everything therein expressed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS.

Inclosure 5 in No. 11.

General Jochmus to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

*Head Quarters, Beyrout,
October 12, 1840, 6 A.M.*

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship of the causes and the event of the dispersion of Osman Pasha's corps.

Ibrahim Pasha having continued since, and notwithstanding the reverse, his system of dividing his forces, in order to cover more ground against the projected armaments of the mountaineers, we have persisted, on our side, to take advantage of his mistakes.

On the 8th of October, in the afternoon, I occupied the heights of Ardali (where the action of the 24th of September had been fought), and the village of Ornachajuen, without opposition, with a force of four battalions.

During the following night, about 300 armed peasants joined, and I made early on the 9th a reconnaissance on my left, to ascertain the nature of the ground. A skirmish ensued, and the enemy showed about 1,500 men, under Hassan Bey and Emir Massoud, on the opposite heights of Calat Meidan.

Commodore Napier and Selim Pasha coming to the heights of Ardali

on the 9th, resolved to drive the enemy from his position, in order to facilitate the operations of Emir Bechir Kasim, who having been proclaimed governing Prince in lieu of the old Emir Bechir, had been directed to cross the Kelb Sou, and to enter the provinces above Beyrout, for which purpose he had collected a force of mountaineers, and had been provided with 1,100 muskets for distribution, the last remaining.

The ultimate object of the operation was eventually the taking of Beyrout, whither Admiral Stopford had gone with part of the squadron.

The position of the enemy at Calat Meidan, however, was of prodigious natural strength, being covered by a deep ravine, and presenting three successive lines of entrenchments, the elevation of the position, from the depth of the ravine to the highest redoubt, being perhaps 1,000 yards, and in many parts the rocks were nearly perpendicular.

Commodore Napier, with the double view of saving a great loss of life on our part, and of obtaining a greater result in victory, directed me to order Omer Bey, who with five battalions had been left in our position above Djounie, to march with two of them to Ageltun, there to cross the Kelb Sou, and to fall on the enemy in his flank and rear. The Emir Bechir received similar orders.

Shortly afterwards, and during the evening of the 9th, we ascertained that Ibrahim Pasha in person had arrived at Calat Meidan, with 2,000 of his best troops, namely, 1,200 Albanian body-guards, and 800 of what is called his regular guard.

Perceiving finally his fault, this General had ordered four battalions of Solyman Pasha to join him also, and 2,000 more men were approaching from Zaclé, in order to be concentrated in our front.

Not a moment was to be lost without compromising the column of Omer Bey and the mountaineers of the Emir Bechir.

The Commodore ordered up to the heights of Ardali the three remaining battalions from Djounie, and two Turkish field-pieces.

At two o'clock, on the 10th of October, we had seven battalions at Ardali, when the fire of Omer Bey approaching by the road of Beckfuya, was distinctly heard in the enemy's rear.

The following dispositions were then taken for an immediate attack.

One battalion and the mountaineers were directed to cross the ravine, which separated us from the enemy, and to arrive on his line of retreat by the road to Brumana.

Four battalions stormed the heights of Calat Meidan, two in tirailleurs, supported by two others, in closer order, moving by the road.

Two battalions, reserves on the heights of Ardali.

After two hours' fighting and the display of the most daring gallantry on the part of the Turks, for the élite troops of the hitherto unvanquished Ibrahim Pasha also stood manfully to their posts strongly fortified and facing both attacks, we joined Omer Bey on the heights of Calat Meidan.

The enemy's three lines of retreat being occupied by our respective corps, namely, the road to Brumana by our column, and the roads to Beckfuya and Corneil by Omer Bey, Ibrahim's forces were thrown into the gorge, not twenty-five men of any of his corps remaining together at sunset, and he himself escaping with difficulty, accompanied by a few horsemen.

Eight hundred prisoners, all his stores and ammunition, &c. &c. fell into our hands; a great many more troops will disperse to their houses, or be pursued by the Emir Bechir Kasim, who arrived at sunset within three hours' distance from the field of battle, and communicated to the Commodore, that he was then observing the 2,000 men approaching to Ibrahim Pasha's support from Zaclé.

In consequence of having been weakened by Ibrahim Pasha's order, by four battalions, Solyman Pasha withdrew altogether from Beyrout, in the night of the 9th October, and concentrated in a camp one hour and a half east from the town, having the river between himself and the place. The town was, consequently, occupied by the English and a battalion of Turks on the 10th of October; but the news of the entire defeat of Ibrahim Pasha having reached Solyman Pasha's camp, his forces were

seized by a panic. He himself, abandoned by his troops, fled in the direction of Damascus, with a few squadrons of horse; many of his soldiers dispersed, a regiment of 2,000 men laid down their arms early on the 11th of October at Beyrout, and gave up his entrenched camp with nineteen pieces of artillery, ammunition, stores, &c. &c.

Our success has been complete. The Turkish troops fought as they did in the times of Solyman the Great.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieut.-Gen.

No. 12.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 244.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 20, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copies of two despatches which I have received from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Admiral Stopford to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

"Princess Charlotte," Beyrout, October 9, 1840.

I REGRET that your Lordship should have taken such hold of a paragraph in my letter of the 17th September, as to imagine that I should wantonly and ignorantly withdraw all the naval force from this coast upon the approach of bad weather. I did not enter into any details upon the subject, as so much is left to my discretion by Her Majesty's Government.

I shall now only say that a sufficient number of small vessels and steamers will be left at all times to give effectual security to any position occupied by the Allied Force; and this description of vessel can render such assistance far more effectually than three-deckers and eighty-gun ships.

The want of harbours on this coast is the point to be deprecated, and not the safety of Her Majesty's large ships. I have now eleven sail of the line here and hereabouts; two more are immediately expected, and perhaps others may follow.

It cannot be expected that these thirteen sail of the line are required at the same time to blockade the coast of Egypt and Syria—or, indeed, ought they, as all their provisions would be exhausted together: there must be reliefs.

In the winter time some place of security is required, where part of the squadron can be replenished with provisions and water to relieve those ships which are kept at sea.

I know of no place more secure and convenient than the harbour of Marmorice, to which supplies from Malta may be directed to go.

The harbour of Alexandretta (Scanderoon) has been named as a secure harbour; but I know, from good authority, that the air is at all times pestiferous, the water unwholesome, and the anchorage exposed to furious winds.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Admiral Stopford to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

"Princess Charlotte," Djounie Bay, October 7, 1840.

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th, I may congratulate your Lordship on the continuing success of the Sultan's cause; Sidon and Tsour are still in our hands; the former already put in a formidable state of defence; and with the recent and expected reinforcements to the Turkish troops, I have little doubt of our continuing to hold it: but the small number of our disposable force prevents us doing more, on many other points, than opening a temporary means of arming the country people, who are kept off by the Egyptian forces, with the aid of cavalry in any open part of the country, from a free communication with the sea-shore, notwithstanding which they contrive at great risk to present themselves; and I am happy to find that, on many occasions, they have made a brave and good use of them. A body of about 2,000, under Abdul Emir-el-Kasim, attacked a corps of 4,000 regular troops under Osman Pasha two days ago, and totally dispersed them, taking between 300 and 400 prisoners; besides which a Colonel and fifty-eight deserters left them, and joined our camp.

A slight check was suffered at Tortosa, from a party of the enemy having been thrown in before daybreak on the morning of the attack, and some obstructions which were not foreseen.

At Beyrout, in consequence of information that a powder magazine was mined, the "Edinburgh" and "Hastings" sent their boats under Commander Worth, with the men who had laid the train and given the information; the train was cut off at the moment it was set fire to, and thirty-one barrels of powder taken off. One fine young officer was killed and two seamen wounded in this gallant enterprise.

There is no longer any apprehension of an attack upon our position, the enemy disappearing, except at Beyrout and the neighbourhood, where Solyman Pasha remains with about 4,000 men; but our accounts are always exceedingly vague, and we know their marches and evolutions are made expressly to deceive us.

October 12. I had the honour to receive your Lordship's letters of the 21st September and 3rd instant, by the "Phoenix," on the 9th, since which very great successes have attended the Sultan's cause. Before the arrival of Sir Charles Smith a plan was concerted for a combined attack upon the camp of Solyman Pasha and the town of Beyrout; the shipping moved into position, while a portion of the Turkish troops marched by the mountains. This led to the evacuation of the town the same night, which was taken possession of by us in the morning; while Commodore Napier, who led on the Turkish forces under Selim Pasha, of whom he speaks highly, found himself in presence of about 3,000 Egyptian troops in a strong position under Ibrahim Pasha himself; gallantly attacked them, with the Turks and mountaineers alone; drove them from post to post; and at last put them to flight, taking about 800 prisoners, and leaving Selim Pasha in chase of the remainder, who has since returned from the pursuit. Meantime the 2,000 Egyptian troops, who had previously occupied the town, made their escape from Solyman's camp, and returned as deserters to the Sultan's flag; and very soon after the camp itself was deserted, the guns spiked, and Solyman fled; it is supposed to join Ibrahim on the road towards Balbec or Damascus.

I may well congratulate his Highness the Sultan on this most important success; great in itself as affording, with Tyre and Sidon, a strong hold in the country, and shelter for the troops, who have now left the rock on which they landed, and great in its effects of inspiring confidence among the inhabitants of the country, for whom it opens a free communication with the forces sent to their assistance.

The prisoners and deserters in all may be estimated at 10,000, and

20,000 mountaineers well armed; but a further supply of muskets is much wanted.

Sir Charles is now in the town making the necessary arrangements, and will soon proceed to Sidon and Tsour.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

P.S.—Events crowd upon one another in such rapid succession, that I am obliged to acquaint your Lordship by a postscript, the Emir Bechir of the mountains is now, I am informed, in Sidon; and I have ordered a steamer to bring him and his family to Beyrout. Colonel Hodges, who takes this despatch, who was with Commodore Napier in the last gallant affair, when Ibrahim was nearly taken prisoner, will give you a full detail of the present state of affairs here. I have likewise intrusted the Colonel with the Egyptian standard which last waved at Beyrout, for presentation to his Highness the Sultan.

No. 13.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 156.)

My Lord,

Vienna, October 28, 1840.

PRINCE METTERNICH was on the point of sending orders to the Internuncio, to concur with Lord Ponsonby in the course directed by your Lordship's despatch No. 195 to that Ambassador, but the arrival this morning of the Smyrna Journals, containing accounts of the advantages recently obtained in Syria, and, on the other hand, the less menacing aspect of affairs in France, have determined the Prince to delay sending the instruction in question for the present. This does not indicate on his part the least repugnance to seeing Mehemet Ali reinstated in the Government of Egypt; but considering the rapid progress of events in Syria, and the possibility that even Acre may fall, he sees no advantage in the Sultan presenting an offer to Mehemet Ali at the very moment when that Pasha may possibly be on the point of arriving with a request. He wishes to preserve to the Sultan the full advantage of his position, and he thinks this the more advisable, as, in case of a refusal on the part of Mehemet Ali, the Powers would be embarrassed, while the final result of the contest in Syria is still undecided, to know what resolution to take with regard to that Pasha, though an offer on their part, followed by a refusal on his, would be generally felt to require one. The step proposed to be taken at Constantinople was calculated for Paris, where the intentions of the Powers with regard to Egypt are fully understood, and where it will already have produced its effect; but it might be very inappropriate to the circumstances under which it would have to be made in the Levant; the Prince, therefore, takes upon himself to delay it, directing the Internuncio to give no other reason for the delay than the absence of instructions. Prince Metternich undertakes to explain this delay at Paris, and will represent that his object has been to give the French Government time to exert its influence upon Mehemet Ali, and thereby to save the Pasha from further compromising his position by a refusal which, under the circumstances now taking place in Syria, he might hereafter regret; thus offering to France the brilliant part of deciding the conduct of the Pasha, and thereby concluding the affair.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 14.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord,

Vienna, October 28, 1840.

PRINCE METTERNICH informs me that the succours destined for Syria will consist of twenty-five scientific officers of different arms, of all the English muskets in dépôt at Carlstadt, and between 300 and 400 marines. I learn, from another source, that there are 5,000 English muskets at Trieste which have been ordered to be embarked. I have represented the necessity of sending ammunition with them, and have been assured it will be done. As soon as I can learn the exact number of muskets sent, I will acquaint your Lordship with it. I do not expect it to reach 10,000.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 15.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord,

Vienna, October 28, 1840.

IT appears that Rechid Pasha's ministerial position is endangered by intrigues in the harem. The Sultan's success in having already four children either born to him, or about to be so, has furnished a sufficient ground for convincing him that the success of his arms has been due neither to his ministers nor to his generals, but to the manifest protection of the Prophet, who showers his favours thus abundantly upon him.

Rechid Pasha's tenure of power has, in consequence, become so precarious, that Prince Metternich has instructed the Internuncio to apply to his colleagues to concur with him in representing to the Sultan that the Four Powers, in the conviction that their efforts on behalf of His Highness's Government would be useless, if any other man were put in the place of Rechid Pasha, make it a condition that that minister shall not be removed.

Not having seen the despatch to Baron Stürmer, I cannot be answerable for the terms, but the above is the sense of what Prince Metternich stated to me. Should the other representatives decline concurring with the Internuncio in this step, he will make it alone in the name of the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 16.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 159.)

My Lord,

Vienna, October 28, 1840.

PRINCE ESTERHAZY will set off immediately for London. The main point of his instructions is that Austria will act fully up to the Convention of the 15th of July; but that if the case, which by the Convention is set aside for the consideration of the Cabinets, should arise, viz., that of depriving Mehemet Ali of the Government of Egypt, Austria reserves to herself the faculty of entering upon the consideration of it in common with the Three Powers her Allies.

By this your Lordship will understand that she is willing to contribute her efforts to procure the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptians, looking always in practice to the expediency of keeping the Turks in the first line, although aiding them, at the same time, by every species of succour which may be needed to make their operations effective. When the evacuation of Syria shall be complete, and the question of the conduct to be observed towards Mehemet Ali in Egypt shall arise, Austria will be guided by the circumstances that shall then exist, not pronouncing herself more favourable in the meantime to one solution of the question than to another.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 17.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 163.)

My Lord,

Vienna, November 1, 1840.

I HAVE communicated to Prince Metternich, the substance of Mr. Wood's Report (No. 4) to Lord Ponsonby, which indicates a reluctance on the part of Izzet Pasha to confirm the promises made by Mr. Wood in the name of the Porte, or to give them effect. Prince Metternich is strongly impressed with the necessity of setting this right, and will immediately instruct the Internuncio to co-operate with Lord Ponsonby for that purpose.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 18.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord,

Vienna, November 1, 1840.

PRINCE METTERNICH apprehends that his advice as to an overture to be made by the Porte to France, after having been asked, was not waited for, and that this step has been taken at Constantinople. He has not a certainty upon this head, but he suspects it.

He attributes the original idea, and its supposed success, in great part to the intrigues of the Frenchmen, by whom the members of the Divan are surrounded, and he holds the moment to be come when the removal of these Frenchmen should be insisted on, and their places supplied, where necessary, by Europeans of other nations.

One motive for their presence, and one great means of their influence, is the printing the "Moniteur Ottoman" in French, contrary to the usage of the whole of the Levant, where the only European language current is the Italian. This, Prince Metternich thinks should be immediately altered, the Porte being made to understand, if necessary, that the Courts will not suffer the French language to be made that of the Levant.

The Prince has no doubt of the co-operation of Russia for this object, and answers for that of Prussia. He will address himself to these two Courts, and only awaits your Lordship's answer before giving the necessary instructions to the Internuncio.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 19.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 181.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1840.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 156 of the 28th ultimo, reporting the reasons which have induced Prince Metternich to delay sending to the Internuncio instructions similar to those contained in my despatch No. 195 to Lord Ponsonby, I have to state to your Excellency that the distinction drawn by Prince Metternich between a renewed offer to be made by the Sultan to Mehemet Ali, and a proposal to be made by Mehemet Ali to the Sultan, and to be accepted by the latter, seems to be just, and to be founded on a correct principle; and the object for which my despatch to Lord Ponsonby was written appears to be as attainable by the course recommended by Prince Metternich, as by that which was suggested in my despatch.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 20.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 182.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1840.

YOUR Excellency's despatches to No. 165, inclusive, have been received and laid before the Queen.

With reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 157 of the 28th ultimo, reporting that the Austrian Government are about to despatch to the coast of Syria five and twenty officers of different arms, a supply of arms, and a reinforcement of marines, I have to instruct you to express to Prince Metternich the extreme gratification which this information has afforded Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 21.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 226.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 9, 1840.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches to No. 244 inclusive.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve of your intention to present to the Sultan, in the manner stated in your despatch No. 242, the standard taken from Ibrahim Pasha in the battle of the 10th of October.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 22.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 227.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 9, 1840.

WITH reference to the letter from Mr. Wood to your Excellency of the 8th of October, of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch No. 243, I have to instruct your Excellency to represent immediately to the Porte that the interests of the Sultan and the honour of the British Crown require that the Pasha sent to govern in any part of Syria should be a man who will, actively and in good faith, carry into effect the provisions of the Hatti Scheriff of Gulhane, and fulfil the promises made to the Syrians in the name of the Sultan by the British Agent, Mr. Wood. Whatever may be the merits and good qualities of Izzet Pasha, and Her Majesty's Government do not presume to question them, it is evident that he is not a man well qualified for the particular duty which has been imposed upon him as Pasha of Syria, and therefore Her Majesty's Government most earnestly request the Porte to make some different arrangement for Syria, and to send to the Pashalicks of that province Governors better fitted, than Izzet Pasha seems to be, to carry into effect the benevolent intentions of the Sultan, and not only to gain, but also to retain, the confidence and good-will of the Syrians.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna informs me that the Internuncio will also receive from his Government instructions to the same effect as those which are contained in this despatch.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 23.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 228.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 9, 1840.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna has reported to me that Prince Metternich proposed to instruct the Internuncio to support Rechid Pasha against any intrigue which may be got up for the purpose of removing him from the station which he holds in the Turkish Government; and I have to instruct your Excellency to co-operate, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, with the Internuncio in this matter, and to express to the Sultan in the strongest manner the conviction of Her Majesty's Government, that all the efforts of Great Britain to be useful to the Sultan in his Highness' present contest with Mehemet Ali, will be marred, if Rechid Pasha were to be removed from his post, or were to be deprived in any other way of the power of seconding the exertions of Her Majesty's Government on behalf of the Sultan.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 24.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 231.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 9, 1840.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna has reported to me the substance of Prince Metternich's observations upon the expediency of taking advantage of the present opportunity to procure the removal from the Turkish offices of the Frenchmen who are more or less employed

therein, and the substitution of the Italian for the French language in the Ottoman "Moniteur." Her Majesty's Government concur in these opinions of Prince Metternich; and I have to instruct your Excellency to co-operate with the Internuncio for the purpose of effecting the objects above mentioned.

I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of Lord Beauvale's despatch on this subject.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 25.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 96.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 31, 1840.

I INQUIRED yesterday of Count Nesselrode whether Baron Brunnow had informed him of the instructions on the deposition of Mehemet Ali, conveyed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in your Lordship's despatch No. 195, and understanding that he had not been made acquainted with the exact contents of this despatch, I read it to his Excellency, and left it with him.

Count Nesselrode has now returned this despatch to me, saying that he should send a messenger to Constantinople to-morrow, with instructions for M. Titow, in conformity with your Lordship's despatch No. 195 to Lord Ponsonby.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 26.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 99.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 31, 1840.

LAST week a French messenger brought to M. de Barante copies of the despatches addressed by M. Thiers to M. Guizot on the 3rd and 8th instants, in reply to your Lordship's No. 36 to Mr. Bulwer.

The system of publicity appears to have been followed here as elsewhere, and even the French Ambassador was first made acquainted, through the foreign newspapers, with the tenor of these despatches.

M. de Barante has read them to Count Nesselrode, but was instructed not to leave any copy, as M. Guizot had been authorized to make such alterations as he might deem advisable.

This communication at first made an unfavourable impression here, and the Imperial Government intended preparing a reply; but this feeling has subsided for the present, and Count Nesselrode has assured me that he will not take any step, until he hears in what manner Her Majesty's Government will proceed; adding, that in one point of view he was not displeased with the communication, for France by this step recognized the Convention of July 15.

I told his Excellency that there was, however, a part of M. Thiers' despatch of the 3rd instant, the tendency of which I regretted, as the object was to disturb the good relations subsisting between Great Britain and Russia.

I meant that part which refers to the negotiations which took place last year between France and England on the Eastern Question.

Count Nesselrode did not make any reply to me at the moment; but sent for me yesterday, and requested that I would inform your Lordship that no part of M. Thiers' despatch could have the effect of shaking the

confidence so happily established between our Governments; that the Convention of July was the pivot on which our relations now turned, and as for any previous transactions, his Excellency observed emphatically, "Passons une éponge là-dessus."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 27.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 31, 1840.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires received a messenger some days ago, with instructions to press the Russian Government to lend itself to some arrangement which might conciliate France, and allow her to resume her natural position in European politics, by which she could be admitted as a party to the settlement of the Turco-Egyptian Question.

In my late conversations with Count Nesselrode on the subject, I have found him unwilling to give an opinion; and further, the Emperor will not hear of taking the initiative in any overture to France.

The tendency of Baron Brunnow's despatches (who always writes in a sense to please the Emperor), is not calculated to effect any alteration in His Imperial Majesty's feelings and opinions; but, on the contrary, to confirm them; and the Imperial Government are under the impression that, if France were to be admitted into the Alliance, the present relations between France and England would assume at once a different aspect, which would disturb our present friendly position with Russia.

Count Nesselrode tells me that he has not received any positive proposal from Austria or Prussia, and that, as the position of the Allies towards France is again modified by the late despatches of M. Thiers to M. Guizot, he shall wait for further intelligence. In the mean time, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires is pressing Count Nesselrode for an answer to his late communication.

Count Nesselrode is opposed to entertaining Prince Metternich's proposal of a Congress at Wiesbaden. He thinks it would be useless for any European purpose, and that no advantage whatever is to be gained by discussing the bearing of the Eastern Question on France, at any other place than London. He naturally does not attach the same importance as Prince Metternich to the sentiments of the German Confederation; and I perceive that there evidently exists here at the present moment a strong feeling of dissatisfaction with the proceedings of the Austrian and Prussian Cabinets.

M. de Liebermann, the Prussian Minister, called upon me yesterday, and said that he had learnt that the Emperor had become more moderate with regard to France, and he thought that if your Lordship could consider the late communication from M. Thiers as containing an overture on the part of the French Government, the accession of the Imperial Government to some collective step might be obtained; and I venture to observe, that if your Lordship should obtain the concurrence of the Austrian and Prussian Plenipotentiaries to any particular measure, and afterwards press the Russian Government to accede to it, it will be extremely difficult for them to refuse, whereas they will always hesitate to follow any course tending to conciliate France, unless the question is brought strongly before them by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 28.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 245.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 21, 1840.

I HAVE inclosed, for your Lordship's information, papers which I could not forward by the messenger of yesterday. They contain some further information respecting affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Mr. Wood to the Sheik Yautish el Hadid of Deir-el-Kammar.

(Translation.)

Illustrious Sir,

Dourour, September 20, 1840.

AFTER informing ourselves of the state of your health, and acquainting ourselves with all that can be pleasing to you, we call your attention to the inclosed copy of the Convention, for the accomplishment of which the Viziers of the Sublime Porte have landed at Kesrowan, with the victorious army, and with troops from the Allied Powers, to expel for ever the government of Mehemet Ali from this country. In consequence we have come to your district, so famous for its loyalty, and have written you the present, to request you will join us without delay. By accompanying the bearer, he will conduct you to the place where we are; but should you not be able to come with all your people and clients, come alone, and leave an order to the inhabitants to follow you quickly, in order to receive the arms destined for them. They shall be protected both by sea and land. We have specified above the object of this letter, and we intend to wait for you and your clients coming, &c., &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Mr. Wood to Admiral Stopford.

*Her Majesty's ship "Cyclops,"
September 22, 1840.*

Sir,

CAPTAIN AUSTIN, of Her Majesty's ship "Cyclops," whom I accompanied in his tour to Saïda, will have reported to you his proceedings along the coast, and I trust your Excellency will not deem it out of place if I permit myself a few suggestions, the result of the observations I was enabled to make, with the assistance of Captain Austin.

The reports of the messengers which I received while at Djounie, from the villages to the south of Beyrout, coincide in every respect with the conversations I have since had personally with the villagers who came off to us. They assert that they would have joined long since the Sultan's troops at Djounie had it been in their power; but that the surveillance of the Egyptians, and the precautionary measures of the Emir Bechir, whose troops are quartered in their villages in small parties, prevented them from even quitting their homes to follow their daily occupations. Two mountain chiefs, who were received on board to-day, and a letter that was sent off to me, confirm the statement of the mountaineers, who are unanimous in favour of the Sultan.

They propose that 1,000 troops be sent to the river Damour, with from 3,000 to 5,000 stand of arms, which they undertake to distribute in two days. Their desire to have the co-operation of the troops and the assistance of two or three ships of war, arises from the simple fact, that their presence will frighten away the guards that are placed over them by the Emir Bechir, thereby leaving them free to come for their arms.

The mountain chiefs on board the "Cyclops," are known to be powerful, and men of influence, who were deeply compromised in the late insurrection. One of them possesses five villages, and can arm alone 1,000 of his own men. The Emir Bechir-el-Kasim, whom the Sultan has appointed by his Imperial firman to supersede his uncle the great Prince (also Emir Bechir by name,) resides near these villages; and notwithstanding his anxiety to join the Sultan's troops, he also has been prevented doing so by the difficulty of reaching in safety the Expedition. I believe to have already informed your Excellency of his several messages to me to send troops to open the roads, that he may come to us with 10,000 men, that he has already prepared for the support of the Sultan's expedition.

The foregoing facts tend to show the expediency of sending an expedition of 1,000 men to the river of Damour, or more properly to a point of land running into the sea, a mile to the south of the river, forming altogether a position as strong as Djounie, and equally as tenable with the assistance of two ships of war, in the midst of populous villages, and only distant four miles from Deir-el Kammar, the capital of the mountains, and the residence of Emir Bechir, whom they propose to drive away as soon as they are armed. The chances are, that the Emir Bechir-el-Kasim will come to us immediately, in which supposition I am not wrong; then, the whole population of Lebanon will be up in arms to drive away the Egyptians, whose rear will be exposed to their attacks, their provisions will be cut off, and themselves obliged to fall back upon Balbek, leaving the mountains in possession of their inhabitants, and the Turkish troops free to act on some other part of Syria.

The despatching, therefore, of 1,000 men, with two or three ships of war, and a few thousand stand of arms, to take temporary possession of the position alluded to above for this distribution, may be attended with the happiest result, and as such, I beg to submit the suggestion to your Excellency's serious consideration.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

Circular Letter addressed to the Emirs and Sheiks of Damour.

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

Sidon, September 27, 1840.

AFTER informing ourselves of the state of your health, we have the honour to inform you, that the Turkish, English, and Austrian troops have captured Sidon. Their endeavours will be directed exclusively to free you from the tyranny and oppression of Mehemet Ali; and as your loyalty to his Highness the Sultan is well known to every one, we demand of you to use all your efforts in devising the means of coming to us at the river Damour, to be armed, both you and your Chiefs, in order that you may assist us in making you free and happy. May the Almighty extend his protecting hand over you all, &c., &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Circular Letter addressed by Mr. Wood to the Mutuali Sheiks, as noted per margin.*

Most honoured Sirs,

THE troops of His Imperial Highness the Sultan captured Sidon yesterday; and it cannot be unknown to you, honoured Sirs, that by the support of the Four Powers they have possessed themselves of Tsour, Caiffa, the mountains of Batrouse, and, in short, they are masters of the whole sea-coast; nothing remains now but the capture of Acre. All the Syrians have with great readiness received our arms, to drive out of their country both Ibrahim Pasha and his army.

As all the people and Governors have returned to their duty to the Sultan, conformably to the sacred law (Koran), and as we are actually at Sidon, we write you to come and receive your arms in safety, and you will be rewarded for your services and loyalty. Every security shall be given you; and on your arrival, you, and your people, shall be further informed of facts that will be agreeable and satisfactory to you. Be assured beforehand, that you will be confirmed in your Government; and in the expectation of having the honour of seeing you on Wednesday next, may God give you strength to decide according to the Holy Book.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 28.

Reply of the Mutuali Sheiks to Mr. Wood's Circular Letter.

(Translation.)

After the usual compliments.

AT a most propitious moment we had the honour to receive your orders. We obey, again we obey, and we have already done the needful, and do hereby most formally submit and enter under the cloak of obedience.

Your servant, and all who belong to him, return to their allegiance, which is comprised in the obedience we owe to the Sublime Porte, and to no other; but as we are a numerous people, and we enjoy certain rights and prerogatives which we inherit from our forefathers, being of the same sect (Mutualis) as ourselves, we will send a confidential servant to kiss the hem of your garment, and to represent to your Excellency our osition.

All your servants submit to the orders of the Sublime Porte, and may you remain happy to the day of the Insurrection (Resurrection?).

(Signed) (L.S.) HASSAN SULMAN,
Chief Sheik.

Inclosure 5 in No. 28.

Letter addressed by the Divan of Sidon to Izzet Pasha.

(Translation.)

IN the name of the Supreme God, of our Prophet, of his Parents, and of his Allies of happy memory.

After prayers and compliments.

We have the honour to expose to your Excellency, who is renowned for his great mercy, that on Sunday last (1st Shaban) the rays of your Excellency's sun broke upon us, by being honoured with a revered despatch from the High Divan of your Excellency, inclosing an imperial firman from the Porte; as we had the honour to hear in a general

* Sheiks,—Hassan Suleiman, Hamdi el Behr, Hasan el Muhamed, Fazl el Hasan, Hamd.

assembly, and to meditate on, its contents, we rejoiced with a great joy at the goodness of the Almighty, who has deigned to grant us such a remarkable favour and concession, so much appreciated by us all, as that of replacing us under the dominion of the Ottoman Porte. May God give her always the victory. Your servants esteem themselves in especial happy (and we render thanks to our Maker) in having your Excellency of eminent superiority at our head as Governor, according to the tenor of the firman, before which we prostrate ourselves.

One and all of us have lifted up our hands to Heaven, in humble supplication to preserve you to us, to give you the victory, and to cause to exist for ever the sovereignty of our Sultan, the Emperor, and the "Hakan of the Hawakins." May the Almighty preserve him, and maintain his Government to the end of days!

We, moreover, inform your Excellency, that we received this day your honoured Orders, addressed to the Chiefs and Princes of the districts and villages of our neighbourhood, which were given us by Colonel Haled Bey of the 2nd Regiment, and Abdullah Aga, the Secretary, who also instructed us, in the name of your Excellency, to distribute them separately, and to call upon the inhabitants to assist our Consuls to tranquilize the people, and to guarantee to them, in behalf of the Sublime Porte, their property, their lives, and welfare.

Conformably to the above instructions, we have not neglected to publish everything, esteeming ourselves happy in having to perform so sacred a duty.

We take the liberty to address this humble letter, and to subscribe ourselves your Excellency's most humble servants, &c., &c., &c.,

(Signed) HAGI AHMED CALLUA-SHAKINEL-SAKIR,
SEID AHMET, Governor of the Notables of Saida,
MAHMOUD DERVISH, (Mufti.)

No. 29.

MEMORANDUM.

Londres, le 14 Novembre, 1840.

L'INSTRUCTION adressée à Lord Ponsonby sous la date du 15 Octobre dernier, à la suite d'une délibération entre les Plénipotentiaires d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie, a constaté l'opportunité qu'il y aurait à ce que les Représentans des Quatre Cours à Constantinople fussent autorisés à annoncer à la Sublime Porte: "que leurs Gouvernemens respectifs, conformément aux stipulations du § 7 de l'acte séparé annexé à la Convention du 15 Juillet, croient devoir recommander fortement au Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse que,—dans le cas où Méhémet Ali se soumettrait sans délai, et consentirait à restituer la flotte Ottomane, et de retirer ses troupes de la Syrie toute entière, d'Adana, de Candie, de l'Arabie, et des Villes Saintes,—Sa Hautesse daignât non seulement réinstater Méhémet Ali dans ses fonctions comme Pacha d'Egypte, mais en même tems lui accorder l'investiture héréditaire du dit Pachalic, d'après les conditions établies par la Convention du 15 Juillet, bien entendu que ce titre héréditaire serait sujet à être révoqué si Méhémet Ali, ou l'un de ses successeurs, venait à enfreindre les susdites conditions."

L'utilité d'adresser à la Sublime Porte une communication conçue dans le sens ci-dessus énoncé, a été unanimement reconnue par les Quatre Cours.

Néanmoins, pour faire ressortir davantage les justes égards dus aux droits de Sa Hautesse, le Cabinet de Vienne a été d'avis que les conseils que les Représentans des quatre Cours seraient appelés à adresser au Divan relativement à la réintégration de Méhémet Ali dans le Pachalic de l'Egypte, ne devrait être émis à Constantinople, qu'après que Méhémet Ali eût commencé par recourir en grâce auprès de son Souverain, se soumettant aux décisions de Sa Hautesse.

Prenant en considération que cette opinion du Cabinet de Vienne sert à constater de nouveau le respect que les Cours signataires de la Convention

du 15 Juillet, portent à l'inviolabilité des droits de souveraineté et d'indépendance du Sultan,—considérant en outre la nécessité d'amener promptement la crise actuelle du Levant à une solution pacifique conforme aux vrais intérêts comme à la dignité de la Porte,—les Plénipotentiaires des dites Cours ont résolu d'un commun accord d'adopter la marche indiquée ci-dessus, afin que le recours en grace et la soumission de Méhémet Ali précédât les démarches amicales que les Représentans Alliés seront chargés de faire pour disposer la Porte à accorder son pardon à Méhémet Ali.

Dans cette vue, désirant accélérer le plus possible le moment où ces démarches pourront avoir lieu à Constantinople, les Plénipotentiaires des Quatre Cours ont jugé opportun de faire signaler sans le moindre délai à Méhémet Ali la voie qui lui est encore ouverte pour rentrer en grace auprès de son Souverain, et obtenir sa réintégration dans le Pashalic de l'Egypte, nonobstant les événemens décisifs qui se sont déclarés contre lui.

En conséquence il a été convenu en outre de communiquer à l'Ambassadeur de la Sublime Porte, Chékib Effendi, le présent Mémoire ainsi que l'instruction qui s'y trouve annexée.

(Signé) NESSELRODE.
PALMERSTON.
BRUNNOW.
BULOW.

No. 30.

Viscount Palmerston to the Lords of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1840.

THE Four Powers which, together with the Porte, are parties to the Treaty of the 15th of July, have resolved to recommend to the Porte, through their representatives at Constantinople, that if Mehemed Ali shall at an early moment make his submission to the Sultan, and agree to restore immediately the Turkish fleet, and to cause his troops to evacuate the whole of Syria, the district of Adana, the Island of Candia, Arabia, and the Holy Cities, the Sultan should, notwithstanding the decree by which he has deprived Mehemed Ali of the Government of Egypt, reinstate Mehemed Ali in that Pashalick.

In furtherance of that resolution, it has been determined by the representatives of the Four Powers at London, that the intentions of the Four Powers, in this respect, should be made known to Mehemed Ali through the Admiral commanding in the Mediterranean.

I have, therefore, to signify to your Lordships Her Majesty's pleasure that instructions be given to Sir Robert Stopford, directing him to send immediately a competent officer to Alexandria, in order to make the following communication to Mehemed Ali.

The officer so to be sent, will, on his arrival at Alexandria, demand to have an interview with Mehemed Ali, in the presence of Boghos Bey, in order to make to Mehemed Ali a communication from Her Majesty's Government. When admitted, he should state to Mehemed Ali that he is ordered by the British Government to inform him that if he will make immediate submission to the Sultan, and will deliver into the hands of the officer so sent a written engagement to restore, without further delay, the Turkish fleet, and to cause his troops immediately to evacuate the whole of Syria, the district of Adana, the Island of Candia, Arabia, and the Holy Cities, the Four Powers will recommend to the Sultan to reinstate Mehemed Ali in the Pashalic of Egypt. But the officer will state that this recommendation will be given by the Four Powers, only in the event of the prompt submission of Mehemed Ali, and that the officer is directed to remain three days at Alexandria, to know the decision of Mehemed Ali, and to convey it to Constantinople.

The officer employed should put down the foregoing communication in writing, and after having read it to Mehemed Ali, he should deliver to him the paper on which it is written.

If, at the end of the three days, Mehemed Ali should not have determined to make his submission to the Sultan. The officer should re-embark, and should proceed to Constantinople to make his report to Her Majesty's Ambassador at that Court. If Mehemed Ali should at any time during the three days deliver to the officer the written engagement above mentioned, the officer should immediately proceed with it to Constantinople.

But the officer should require that the written document to be given to him by Mehemed Ali, should be placed in his hands open, so that he may be able to inform himself of its contents; and he will decline to convey it to Constantinople, if he should find that it does not contain the above-mentioned engagement.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 31.

Viscount Palmerston to the Lords of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1840.

WITH reference to my other letter of this day's date, I have to signify to your Lordships the Queen's pleasure that the officer who may be sent by Sir Robert Stopford to Alexandria, should be instructed, that if the written document which Mehemed Ali may deliver to him for the purpose of its being transmitted to Constantinople, should contain the expression of a desire on the part of Mehemed Ali to obtain hereditary tenure of the Pashalic of Egypt, the officer shall not on that account decline to receive and to convey the document, provided it shall also contain the engagement mentioned in my other letter of this day.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 32.

Viscount Palmerston to the Lords of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1840.

WITH further reference to my other letters of this day, I am to signify to your Lordships the Queen's commands that Admiral Sir Robert Stopford should be informed that he is not in any degree to suspend his operations, or to relax his efforts, on account of the communication which he is instructed to make to Mehemed Ali; but, on the contrary, he should continue to push on with vigour his operations for the purpose of expelling the Egyptians from the whole of Syria, and he should not slacken in his exertions, till he learns from Constantinople that an arrangement has been made with Mehemed Ali.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 326.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 13, 1840.

IN my despatch of the 6th instant, No. 317, I stated that M. Guizot had read to me a despatch which he had written to Baron Bourqueney, and which the French Chargé d'Affaires had received instructions to communicate to your Lordship. I have to express my regret at having led your Lordship into error in regard to the nature of that communication.

M. Guizot has since shown to me the paper he read. It was a private

letter, and not an official despatch, which he addressed to Baron Bourqueney; and the French Minister had no intention, in directing the Baron to put your Lordship in possession of the contents of this private letter, to make an official proposition to Her Majesty's Government.

M. Guizot was desirous, before he made any official proposition to your Lordship with regard to France becoming a party to the settlement of the Eastern Question, to ascertain whether it were likely that such proposition would be favourably received, and with this view he wrote his private letter to the Baron de Bourqueney.

Baron Bourqueney having collected from your Lordship's conversation, that the proposal of any arrangement more favourable to Mehemet Ali than the Treaty of July would not be listened to by the Allies of the Sultan, abstained from entering into any explanation of different projects of peace between the Porte and the Pasha, founded upon that basis, to which the French Government was ready to agree.

M. Guizot has told me, unofficially and confidentially, that according to the first of those projects, the hereditary government of the Pashalick of Acre, as well as that of Egypt, would be conceded to Mehemet Ali; that, according to the second, the Pashalicks of Acre and of Tripoli for life, with the hereditary government of Egypt; and, according to a third project, the hereditary government of Egypt, with the Pashalick of Acre and the government of Candia for life. With respect to the suspension of hostilities on a future day to be fixed, and the opening a negotiation for peace, on the basis of the actual state of military occupation at the time of the armistice, as suggested by M. Guizot in the conversation I held with him on Friday last, he said to me this day, that he does not consider that suggestion, which he made only with reference to another of a similar kind, made by Baron Bulow to M. Bourqueney, as an official proposition addressed to Her Majesty's Government, but merely as an intimation that in case the Allied Powers should desire the concurrence of France in the settlement of the affairs of the East, the French Government would be ready to enter into negotiation upon that basis.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 327.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 13, 1840.

THE publication of your Lordship's despatch of the 2nd of this month, in which you reply to M. Thiers' despatch of the 8th of October, relative to the deposition of Mehemet Ali, has made great sensation in the political society of Paris. It was nearly the sole subject of conversation at the hotels of the Ministers who received company last night; and M. Guizot was closely questioned by some of his supporters who are the advocates of a pacific policy, as to the construction he put upon your Lordship's despatch, and had some difficulty in satisfying his interrogators that your Lordship, in asserting the right of the Sultan to appoint whom he pleased to govern particular portions of his dominions, did not mean to declare the intention of expelling Mehemet Ali from Egypt. M. Guizot is, however, very much annoyed by the publication of this despatch; he said to me, that it would add exceedingly to the difficulties of the Government in the debate on the Address, and augment the numbers of the war party on the division. I am inclined to think, from some words which dropped from him in his conversation with me, that he has pledged himself, in the commission of the Address in the Chamber of Peers, to act up to the declaration contained in M. Thiers' note of the 8th of October, in regard to France not consenting to the Government of Egypt being wrested from Mehemet Ali. He expressed to me his belief, a belief, he said, founded on his reliance on your word, that it was not the intention of the Allies, if they succeeded in driving the Egyptians out of Syria, to

attack Egypt. If, however, that intention should be changed, he would not declare, as M. Thiers had done, that France would go to war, but he had no hesitation in saying that he would not remain Minister.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 35.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 325.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1840.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 326, of the 13th instant, explaining an error in the statement made in your despatch No. 317, of the 6th instant, relative to the nature of the communication which M. Guizot had desired to make to me, through M. de Bourqueney, before he made any official proposition to me with regard to France becoming a party to the settlement of the Eastern Question.

With reference to this explanation, I have to state to your Excellency, that it must be apparent that the rapid progress of events in Syria has put all contingent suggestions of an earlier date out of the question, even if in any case such suggestions could, as being departures from the Treaty of the 15th July, have been subjects for discussion.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 36.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 326.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1840.

I INCLOSE for your Excellency's information, copies of three letters which I addressed on the 14th instant to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, signifying to their Lordships the Queen's commands as to instructions to be sent to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford to make a communication to Mehemet Ali, in the name of the Four Powers who concluded with the Porte the Treaty of the 15th of July.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 37.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 327.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1840.

IN answer to your Excellency's despatch No. 327 of the 13th instant, I have to instruct you to state to M. Guizot, that he is quite right in stating, that I said to him before he left England that it is not the intention or wish of the Allies to expel Mehemet Ali from Egypt, and that the object of the operations now in progress is to restore Syria to the direct authority of the Sultan; and the instructions to Sir Robert Stopford, of which I send you copies, and which you will read confidentially to M. Guizot, are a proof of the sincerity of the statement which I made to him.

M. Guizot must himself see, that the Sultan and his Allies would be in an embarrassing situation, if, after they had expelled the Egyptians from Syria, Mehemet Ali should still refuse to make his submission to the Sultan, should persist in retaining the Turkish fleet, and should remain in a posture of armed rebellion.

It may be hoped, however, that there is little chance of such a state of things; and it is probable that the communication which Sir Robert Stopford has been instructed to make to Mehemet Ali, may bring about a satisfactory settlement of these affairs.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 38.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, October 16, 1840.

SINCE I had the honour to address your Lordship on the 6th instant, nothing of material importance has occurred.

The country remains quiet, with the exception of a slight manifestation of discontent amongst the Cairo Militia, owing to a report that a part of them were to be sent to Syria.

On hearing this, Mehemet Ali went immediately to Cairo, and by his presence restored tranquillity; and, at the same time, ordered that the communications with Suez, which had undergone a momentary stoppage, should be reopened, and every facility given by the authorities for the transmission of mails and the safe passage of travellers.

Captain Johnson, the East India Company's Deputy Agent, has applied to Mehemet Ali, and obtained from him an officer to escort the mails from Suez should they arrive, in which case we may expect them at Alexandria on the 21st or 22nd instant.

Great activity prevails in strengthening the fortifications of Alexandria under the superintendence of Colonel Galisse. The equipment of the combined fleet is going on, and nearly completed; the Turkish sailors have not been removed, although their discontent rather increases.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

P.S.—October 17. Intelligence has been received this morning from Syria of the defection of the Emir Bechir, and the desertion of several regiments in Mehemet Ali's service; and that Solyman Pasha has, consequently, been obliged to evacuate Beyrout, and is endeavouring to join Ibrahim.

No. 39.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, October 28, 1840.

IN my last despatch No. 21 of the 16th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship, that Mehemet Ali had received intelligence of the successive defeats of his troops in Syria, and also of the defection of the Emir Bechir.

This intelligence at first affected him much, but has not prevented him making the greatest efforts to support his son Ibrahim; in this view he is collecting a large number of camels at Cairo to transport provisions and ammunition.

He has also had recourse to the expedient of recalling from Cairo Sheik Abou Naked and Sheik Ali, and his son, of the family of Abd il Malek. These individuals were partizans of the Sheik Bechir, who was killed about fifteen years ago, and have been for the last seven years living at Cairo in a sort of honourable captivity, at the instance of the Emir Bechir, who confiscated their property, but afterwards, at Mehemet Ali's request, allowed them its usufruct. They are all of the Druse religion, and are expected to arrive in Alexandria forthwith, when one of them is to receive the pseudo-investiture of the principality of Mount Lebanon.

The Sheiks banished to Sennaar about two months ago have also been sent for, with a view to their liberation, in order that they may combine with the above-mentioned individuals in producing dissension in Mount Lebanon.

Notwithstanding these measures, and the encouragement given him by M. Cochelet and Count Walewski, it is evident, that Mehemet Ali has no longer that confidence in his position which he formerly possessed; and I believe I am correct in assuming, that he has now renounced all hope of being able to retain possession of Syria, if left to his own resources, and that in his present efforts he is actuated by the vain hope instilled into his policy, through French agency, that if Ibrahim can hold out till the spring, French negotiation will save him, and eventually insure him the possession of those provinces.

Although the influence of France in this country is at present great, if I may venture an opinion, I should say, that Mehemet Ali begins to doubt whether the Government of that nation can assist him in the present crisis, and I think I can perceive a desire on his part for a rapprochement with England. I am led to this conclusion from his conversations, and I think another instance in favour of the assumption, is the great facility he is affording to British commercial interests, both as regards the shipping here, and the assistance he has just afforded in transmitting the India mails from Suez to this port.

These mails arrived here this morning, and proceed at once to Malta by the "Liverpool" steamer.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 40.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 174.)

My Lord,

Vienna, November 14, 1840.

AS Prince Metternich's last despatches to Paris will have been communicated to your Lordship, I need give no account of their contents.

The immediate motive for writing them arose from the necessity in which the Prince found himself of accounting for his conduct in withholding instructions to the Internuncio to concur in the step prescribed to Lord Ponsonby by your Lordship's despatch No. 195, of October 15th.

The publication of that despatch in the newspapers led him to apprehend that Austria would be held up as standing in the way of an amicable settlement of existing differences, and he therefore hastened to explain the motives of his conduct.

He took this opportunity of inculcating upon the French Government that the best course they could pursue would be that of determining Mehemet Ali to an early submission.

Having had repeated opportunities of hearing from the Prince his opinion as to the terms which might in that case be granted to the Pasha, I may state that these terms do not include the cession of any part of Syria, which, with the fortress of St. Jean d'Acre, must, in his opinion, be restored entire to the Sultan. With regard to Egypt, the Prince holds that the conditions upon which it may be conceded to Mehemet Ali must depend upon the circumstances of the moment when he shall make his submission. The most advantageous terms upon which it might be granted to him would be hereditarily to him and his descendants. The least advantageous would be those upon which he lately held it, during the Sultan's pleasure. Between these two extreme points there are many modifications, any one of which might be adopted according to the circumstances of the moment. I have represented to the Prince that the notion of granting Egypt hereditarily to Mehemet Ali had been put forwards in the first instance as a compensation for his relinquishment of other parts of the Sultan's dominions, but that if he should delay his submission until Acre had been wrested from him, he would no longer have anything to offer in return for the boon, while France, although she might make war

to defend him in Egypt, could not do so in order to force the Sultan to confer upon him a benefit to which he has no claim. In this reasoning the Prince fully acquiesced.

If St. Jean d'Acre should neither be taken before the bad weather sets in, nor be ceded by Mehemet Ali during the winter, Prince Metternich is fully prepared to see it attacked in spring; nor do I think that in such a case Austria would withhold such assistance as might be necessary to advance the success of the operation.

Count St. Aulaire having, some days ago, renewed to Prince Metternich the request that something might be conceded to France, I represented to the Prince that, under the turn which events had taken, it was an immense concession to France to restore to Mehemet Ali the Government of Egypt, from which, but for the wish of the Allies to propitiate the French Government, nothing would be easier than to expel him.

Prince Metternich had shown no disposition to accede to Count St. Aulaire's request, and he fully agreed to the doctrine that the replacing Mehemet Ali in the Government of Egypt, if it shall take place, will be a sufficient concession to France.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 41.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 331.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 16, 1840.

I RECEIVED yesterday your Lordship's despatches, Nos. 322, 323, and 324.

I communicated this morning to M. Guizot the substance of the despatches, and learnt from him, that Baron Bourqueney's report of his conversation with your Lordship, in which he expressed the wish of M. Guizot to make a proposition to Her Majesty's Government relative to the affairs in the Levant, if he had reason to suppose that it would not be rejected, corresponds with the statement made in your Lordship's despatch.

M. Guizot intimated to me, that he felt himself precluded by that conversation from making any further communication on the subject to Her Majesty's Government; and that the French Government would wait for events, prepared to take such course as those events might render expedient.

Count Appony yesterday communicated to M. Guizot a long despatch of Prince Metternich, written after the intelligence had reached Vienna of the change of Ministry in France, and of the appointment of M. Guizot to the department of Foreign Affairs. The despatch is written in a very friendly spirit to M. Guizot. Prince Metternich apprehends that in the present excited state of France, a pacific Ministry will have great difficulties to encounter; and conceiving that the settlement of peace between the Sultan and the Viceroy of Egypt will not be complete, unless France concurs in it, is disposed to afford facilities for the attainment of that object.

A suggestion is thrown out by the Austrian Minister, that the influence of France should be exerted over Mehemet Ali, to persuade him to solicit his Sovereign to invest him with the hereditary Government of Egypt on the condition of his yielding the rest of his possessions, whilst the Four Allied Powers should use their influence at Constantinople to induce the Sultan to comply with the request of the Pasha.

M. Guizot, I hear from Count Appony, gave a favourable attention to this suggestion; indeed, I have reason to believe that he has already written to M. Cochelet, to urge the Viceroy to take the step suggested by the Austrian Minister; but when pressed by Count Appony to declare that France would abandon the Pasha if he refused to adopt the advice of the French Government, he would not say that the French Government would make any such declaration.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 42.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 332.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 20, 1840.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 331 of the 16th instant, in which you report that a disposition exists on the part of one of the Powers, parties to the Treaty of the 15th July, to make concessions, in regard to Turkish Affairs, to France under M. Guizot, which the Allies declined to make to France under M. Thiers, I have to state to your Excellency that this distinction does not seem founded upon any just ground.

If the Allied Powers refused to France, under M. Thiers, the concessions which M. Thiers demanded, which were, that the whole, or an important portion, of Syria should be left in the occupation of Mehemet Ali, the Allied Powers did not do so on account of any personal feeling on the part of the Allies against M. Thiers, but because they thought that such an arrangement as that desired by M. Thiers would be destructive of the integrity of the Turkish Empire, detrimental to the independence of the Sultan, injurious to the balance of power, and dangerous in its results to the peace of Europe.

Now, none of these considerations can be altered by the circumstance that M. Thiers has been succeeded by M. Guizot, and that the latter directs, for the present, the Foreign Affairs of France; for, even if the force of these considerations depended, which it obviously does not, upon the personal character of the individual who may hold at a particular moment a particular office in France, it must be recollected that the arrangements, to which the concessions in question relate, are meant to be permanent, while the retention of power by any given individual in France, or in any other country, must necessarily be uncertain and precarious, and, in any case, of comparatively limited duration.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 43.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 237.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 14, 1840.

I INCLOSE for your Excellency's information, copies of three letters which I have this day addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, signifying to their Lordships the Queen's commands as to instructions to be sent to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, to make a communication to Mehemet Ali in the name of the Four Powers, who concluded with the Porte the Convention of the 15th of July.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 44.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 247.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 28, 1840.

THE Sultan did me the honour to grant me an audience on the 2nd inst. All His Majesty's Ministers were present.

I had the honour to lay at His Majesty's feet the standard taken from
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Ibrahim Pasha on the 10th of October by the Ottoman troops acting under the orders of Commodore Napier.

It was necessary to say a few words to His Majesty, and I inclose a report of them, to show your Lordship that I endeavoured to avoid raising jealousies either in the Turks or elsewhere, and at the same time to mark sufficiently the man to whose energy and ability the signal success was due; and further, to mark how facts had refuted the assertion of the French, but to avoid giving them ground to find fault with my expressions.

His Imperial Majesty was pleased to desire me to assure his august Ally, Her Majesty, of His Imperial Majesty's most grateful acknowledgment of the friendly assistance afforded him by Her Majesty and his Allies, and that he hoped that friendly aid would lead to still more intimate friendship between himself and Her Majesty.

The Sultan was graciously pleased to express his approbation of my conduct, in terms which I cannot presume to state.

The hope expressed by the Sultan, of the establishment of more intimate friendship between Her Majesty and himself, has more meaning than a mere compliment. It is intended to show his desire to unite himself with Her Majesty by Treaty.

The standard presented is the standard of the Second Regiment of Guards, and granted to that regiment for its service at the taking of St. Jean d'Acre in 1831. The Second is esteemed one of the best Regiments in the Egyptian service, and Ibrahim was at its head when it lost the standard. The flag is white, having religious sentences upon it, written in golden characters.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Speech made by Viscount Ponsonby to the Sultan when he delivered to His Majesty the Sacred Standard taken by the Turkish Troops from Ibrahim Pasha on the 10th October, 1840.

Sire,

I SOLICITED the honour of being admitted to the presence of your Imperial Majesty, that I might lay at the foot of your Majesty's throne the standard taken in battle by your Majesty's valiant troops, and sent to me from the officer who had the happiness to direct the actions of those brave men in the glorious combat of the 10th of October.

A few weeks since, some rebellious subjects of your Majesty boasted that this standard should be displayed before the capital of your empire. The standard is now here, a monument of the triumph of your Majesty's arms, and an evidence of the error of those who proclaimed the weakness of the Sublime Porte, and the power of the late Pasha of Egypt.

No. 45.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 249.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 28, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, copy of a letter which, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have addressed to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

P.S.—The Admiral's despatches will be forwarded by the first opportunity.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Viscount Ponsonby to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

Therapia, October 25, 1840.

I HAVE been directed by Lord Palmerston to inform you, that the right of commercial blockade, that is to say, the right of preventing neutral merchant ships from entering a blockaded port, is a belligerent right, which can be exercised only by a State against another State with which it is at war. But no State can be at war with the subject of another State; because war cannot be waged, except with those with whom peace can be made: but no treaty of peace can be concluded with a subject, who has no independent will, and who must follow the orders of his Sovereign, in peace or war, and who cannot make peace or war for himself. All we can do is, to prevent the Egyptian ships of war from coming out of port, and by so doing we help the Turkish blockade; but our ships cannot stop nor search any neutral merchantmen, whether English, or French, or other.

Having, in pursuance of Lord Palmerston's directions, made the above communication to you, I beg leave to add, that there is no impeachment of the right of the Sublime Porte to establish a blockade of the strictest nature, and to enforce it by the Ottoman ships of war.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 46.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 252.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 1, 1840.

I REGRET extremely that I could not get means to forward before yesterday to the Admiral his instructions about St. Jean d'Acre. I fear he may have left the coast, to take refuge in Marmorice Bay, before they reach him, which will be a serious misfortune.

I learn from excellent authority, that the greatest confusion and disaffection prevails in the garrison of St. Jean d'Acre, which consists of 4,000 men, and that Ibrahim Pasha is so suspicious of the chiefs, that he has had one of them (Said Mohamed) arrested, and has ordered Scheriff Pasha, of Damascus, to go there as fast as possible to take the command.

Ibrahim, with from 10,000 to 12,000 men, is near Zachlé, in the plain between Lebanon and Anti-Libanus: I believe the place is named Malacha. He will have the greatest difficulty in obtaining provisions. It is certain that the Haouran and the Ledgea will revolt immediately, and aid the rest of the country. The inhabitants of Damascus are extremely ill disposed towards Ibrahim, and the people of Hebron have risen *en masse*.

The mountaineers have cut off the retreat of the garrison of Tripoli, which was directed on Balbeck, and the report is current, and believed, that it was the appearance of a British vessel off Alexandretta, that induced the troops (Egyptian) to evacuate Latakia and Tortosa.

If to all this should be added the capture of St. Jean d'Acre, the fall of Alexandria would follow the first cannon shot directed against it.

The French are endeavouring to raise the Syrians against the Sultan, but their unceasing activity has not succeeded.

A Regiment of 2,500 men and its Colonel deserted from the Egyptians. Izzet Pasha gave the Colonel the rank of Pasha. He has arrived here.

I am afraid it was not quite right to send the Emir Bechir to Malta. The Turks and others may be suspicious and jealous of it; I think it will be proper that I should consent, if asked by the Porte, to write to the Governor of Malta,

and desire him to send the Emir to Constantinople. Nobody will do him any harm here.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 47.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 245.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 24, 1840.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a Memorandum which was recorded by the Plenipotentiaries of the Four Powers on the 14th of November, and on which was founded my letter to the Admiralty of that day, directing that Sir Robert Stopford should be instructed to make to Mehemet Ali the communication therein specified.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 48.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord,

Berlin, November 18, 1840.

LORD GRANVILLE, in his despatch to your Lordship of the 23rd ultimo, No. 295, says, "that M. Thiers spoke of despatches he had received from Count Bresson, which stated that the Prussian Government propose making some propositions to the other parties to the Treaty of the 15th of July, calculated to bring about an arrangement between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, in which the French Government might concur." I asked Baron Werther if it was so, as he had never spoken to me of these propositions; his Excellency said that Count Bresson must have mistaken his meaning, for he never had the intention of making any propositions, and had repeatedly told Count Bresson, that if France wished to become a party to the Convention, she must take the initiative, and that the Four Powers must continue to execute the stipulations of the Treaty until it was accepted by Mehemet Ali.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 49.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, November 11, 1840.

THE Prussian Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires are much dissatisfied with their late communications with Count Nesselrode, and both have assured me that they find but little disposition in the Russian Government to meet the wishes of their Cabinets to adopt a more conciliatory line of policy towards France.

The Prussian Minister has read me a despatch from his Government, which he has communicated to Count Nesselrode, in which the unbending tone of Baron Brunnow is strongly commented on, and appears to have given offence to the Prussian Government.

Count Nesselrode persists in his opinion, that it is impossible for the Allies to take the initiative in any overture to France; and the despatches since

received from Baron Brunnow giving an account of the rejection by your Lordship of M. Guizot's proposition before leaving London, and also of the objections raised by your Lordship to Prince Metternich's proposal of a meeting at Wiesbaden, have confirmed Count Nesselrode in the determination of the Russian Cabinet to await events.

His Excellency read me these despatches this morning, and expressed his reliance in the firmness of the British Cabinet to carry out the stipulations of the Convention of July to their full extent. The despatches are written in the same tone as that which I reported in my No. 100. and with the evident object of upholding the Emperor in his hostility to France, and are filled with arguments in favour of His Imperial Majesty's favourite principle of no concession.

The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires received a messenger yesterday. Count Nesselrode informs me that he has brought another vague proposal from Prince Metternich, to which he is not disposed to give any immediate answer. His Excellency has learnt from Vienna, with some surprise, that Prince Metternich has modified the instructions to the Internuncio, which it was expected would have been forwarded in exact conformity with your Lordship's despatch, No. 195, to Lord Ponsonby.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 50.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Bloomfield.

(No. 104. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 26, 1840.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 105, in which you state that the Prussian Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg are much dissatisfied with their late communications with Count Nesselrode, and that the unbending tone of Baron Brunnow appears to have given offence to the Prussian Government.

I have to state to you, in reply, that in order to understand correctly the value of these communications from Vienna and Berlin, which have been received by Count Nesselrode, and in which fault is found with the conduct of Baron Brunnow in the Conference on Turkish Affairs, it is necessary to bear in mind the many fluctuations which have taken place in the opinion and feelings of the Austrian and Prussian Governments, and especially of the Prussian Government, upon these matters. The Austrian Government entered into the Treaty of the 15th July readily and with much zeal; the Prussian Government, in ratifying the engagements contracted by its Plenipotentiary, made a reservation, stating that it meant to give to the Alliance its moral support, but not its active co-operation; and that if war should ensue with France, Prussia would not take part in such war, unless attacked by France, which it is sufficiently obvious that in such case she would in all probability immediately be.

The Two German Courts have, ever since the conclusion of the Treaty, been either for a vigorous execution of its stipulations, or for an abandonment of some of those stipulations out of deference to the wishes and threats of France, according as those Courts have felt themselves internally strong or weak, and according as they have thought the chances of war remote or near at hand. The representations which you refer to in your despatch, were made from hence, and from Vienna and Berlin, at a moment when a great effort of intrigue had been made by the French Government to shake the firmness of the Allied Powers, and to weaken their union; and those efforts had partially succeeded with the Two Courts, and with their Representatives in the Conference.

Those efforts, however, failed in producing any effect upon Baron Brunnow, and hence the complaints levelled against him at St. Petersburg. But those complaints were most unjust; Baron Brunnow has, from first to last, since he came here in September, 1839, down to the present time, maintained the same tone and held the same language. He has always stated the desire of his

Government to settle the arrangements between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali upon the basis originally put forward by England, namely, that the whole of Syria should be restored to the direct authority of the Sultan, and that nothing but Egypt should be left to Mehemet Ali; but Baron Brunnow has never insisted dogmatically upon his opinions, so as to throw obstacles in the way of a reasonable and satisfactory arrangement.

Baron Brunnow has, ever since the Treaty was signed, held on all occasions the same language as Her Majesty's Government, namely, that the Treaty could not be abandoned and must be executed; but while, on the one hand, before the Treaty was signed, he threw no obstacles in the way to prevent the accession of France thereto, so since it was signed, he has never urged measures calculated to bring on a war between France and the Four Powers.

Now, however, the operations in Syria have been attended with signal success; the French Government has decided for peace, and the Chamber seems resolved to support that policy; and both the Austrian and Prussian Governments have declared that the Treaty must be executed, and that Mehemet Ali can in no case be allowed to retain more than Egypt. Therefore the complaints of the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires and of the Prussian Minister at St. Petersburg, which originated in a different state of things, will probably not be renewed. You will read this despatch confidentially to Count Nesselrode.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 335.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 20, 1840.

I RECEIVED by the post on Wednesday last your Lordship's despatches, Nos. 325, 326, and 327; and it appearing to me to be important that no time should be lost in communicating to M. Guizot the instructions which the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have been directed by your Lordship's letters of the 14th instant to send to Sir Robert Stopford, I availed myself of the opportunity of my meeting M. Guizot at dinner that evening at the Tuilleries, to read to his Excellency confidentially those letters. I also read to the French Minister your despatch, No. 327, in which you observe that the Sultan and his Allies would be in an embarrassing situation, if, after they had expelled the Egyptians from Syria, Mehemet Ali should still refuse to make his submission to the Sultan, should still persist in retaining the Turkish fleet, and should remain in a posture of rebellion. M. Guizot received with satisfaction my communication, and upon my saying that I had been induced to make it at the earliest moment, in order that he might not lose the opportunity of writing to M. Cochelet on the subject of it, by the first steam packet which might leave Marseilles or Toulon for the Levant; he answered, that he would write immediately to M. Cochelet, and give orders by the telegraph that a steam vessel should be ready at Toulon to convey his despatches to Alexandria.

Upon my calling M. Guizot's attention to the passage in your Lordship's despatch to which I have above referred, and on my expressing my conviction that the French Government could not expect, if Mehemet Ali persisted in his rebellion, that the Sultan would be content to abandon his right to the sovereignty of Egypt, and take no measures for the restoration of the Turkish fleet, his Excellency fully acknowledged the embarrassment of that situation, but merely added, "*Alors comme alors*," meaning, that it will be time enough when such embarrassment shall arise, to consider of the measures which it may be then expedient to adopt. The French Government, however, will make every effort to induce Mehemet Ali to avail himself of the communication which Sir Robert Stopford is now instructed to make to him, and have no doubt of their success, if St. Jean d'Acre shall have fallen, or is likely very soon to fall, into the hands of the Allied Powers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 52.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 336. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 24, 1840.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, that I have been informed upon good authority, that M. Duchatel recently informed Baron Rothschild, in confidence, that among the despatches received at the Foreign Office in Paris from Alexandria, dated the 1st instant, there was one from Count Walewski, stating, that the Egyptians were everywhere greatly dispirited by the successes of the Allies in Syria; and that Mehemet Ali himself was so disheartened that Count Walewski had had the greatest difficulty in the world to prevent him from yielding to the conditions offered by the Sultan and the Four Powers.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 53.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 258.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 8, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I received this day from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and my answer to his Excellency. The subject is the prolongation of the term within which, by the orders of the Sublime Porte, the blockade of Alexandria, &c., was directed to commence.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Rechid Pasha to Viscount Ponsonby.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Sublime Porte, le 7 Novembre, 1840.

La Sublime Porte a été informée que par suite d'une communication faite d'ordre de M. l'Amiral Stopford, au commerce d'Alexandrie, par M. le Capitaine Fisher, commandant le vaisseau de Sa Majesté Britannique, "l'Asia," la mise à exécution du blocus de ce port aurait été ajournée au 20 Novembre.

La Sublime Porte n'a reçu information que par voie indirecte, et en la portant à votre connaissance, M. l'Ambassadeur, je désirerais obtenir de votre Excellence quelque explication au sujet de la mesure qui en est l'objet. Cette mesure, si elle a eu véritablement lieu, doit sans doute avoir été motivée par des raisons puissantes; mais la Sublime Porte les ignore complètement jusqu'à ce jour.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) RECHID.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Viscount Ponsonby to Rechid Pasha.

Therapia, November 8, 1840.

IN reply to the Note dated the 7th instant, which Lord Ponsonby has just had the honour to receive from his Excellency Rechid Pasha, &c., requesting information upon the subject of Admiral Stopford's having ordered Captain

Fisher, of Her Majesty's ship "Asia," to inform the commercial body in Alexandria, that the commencement of the blockade was delayed till the 20th of November; Lord Ponsonby regrets that he is unable to give his Excellency any information whatever, as the Sublime Porte is already acquainted, through the indirect channels alluded to by his Excellency, with all Lord Ponsonby knows upon the subject.

No. 54.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 259.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 8, 1840.

THE inclosed paper, entitled "Considérations," &c., was sent to me for my opinion upon the advice given therein to the Sublime Porte with respect to Candia. I gave my approbation to it, with the exception of the proposed grant for life of the Pashalic, but admitting the expediency of doing something to give security to the duration of the authority of Mustapha Pasha, whose merits are universally allowed to be great, as they are set forth in this paper.

Her Majesty's Government have always most justly attached great value to the possession of Candia by the Sublime Porte. Recent events have most essentially altered the condition of Candia with relation to the Sublime Porte. Some short time ago it did not appear unwise to entertain the idea of giving to Candia institutions which would vest power to a large extent in the Greek inhabitants, taking care to protect the interests of the Turks, and the sovereign rights of the Sultan; but it is no longer so; for it is obvious, that Candia will be in a state of rebellion as soon as the military force shall be withdrawn, and the authority of the Governor without the support of the sword.

The causes of disorder in that country are eagerly augmented by those who hope to gain, if confusion can be carried to a great extent, and a very strong Government is necessary to prevent it. I have recommended the strict execution of the Hatti Scheriff of Gulhane in the island, and I believe that would give to the Candiotés all the advantages they are capable of enjoying at present without mischief to themselves, as well as making them the occasion of serious political difficulties to the Porte and to Her Majesty's Government.

Mustapha will, I hope, agree to carry that firman into execution.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure in No. 54.

Considérations sur l'Administration future de l'Ile de Candie.

Le 4 Novembre, 1840.

LA Convention du 15 Juillet ayant retiré à Méhémet Ali l'administration de l'Ile de Candie, la Porte se trouve ainsi appelée aujourd'hui à porter son attention sur les moyens d'établir solidement son autorité dans cette Ile, et je n'hésite pas à affirmer que la première, la seule condition même pour s'en assurer la tranquille possession, reside dans le choix du Gouverneur qu'elle y enverra. Candie ne ressemble à aucune autre dépendance de l'Empire Ottoman. Géographiquement cette Ile se trouve placée dans une position exceptionnelle. La population, qui est évaluée à 180,000 habitants, compte 150,000 Grecs et 30,000 Turcs seulement, les derniers, maîtres des forteresses et de la majeure partie du plat pays, disposent ainsi des principales ressources matérielles de l'Ile. Les Grecs, moins riches, mais plus nombreux et protégés par leurs montagnes, n'acceptent qu'avec répugnance la suprématie des Turcs; aussi n'ont-ils jamais laissé échapper une occasion pour tâcher de s'y soustraire. A ces causes naturelles de la rivalité entre ces deux fractions de la nation, il faut ajouter le

souvenir de la tyrannie que les Turcs ont exercé dans les années précédentes sur les habitants Grecs. Nulle part peut-être, il faut en convenir, les Grecs n'ont eu à subir une plus dure oppression. La révolution Grecque vint leur offrir l'occasion de se venger, et ils en profitèrent largement; d'horribles cruautés signalèrent en Candie cette période de malheurs, et elles contribuèrent à rendre encore plus profonde la haine réciproque de ces nations rivales.

Mais la révolution Grecque réveilla parmi la population Chrétienne de l'Ile un autre sentiment bien plus dangereux pour l'autorité de la Porte; le désir de l'indépendance. L'intervention des Puissances put seule empêcher cette Ile de se soustraire à la domination Ottomane, mais les Grecs, en se résignant aux décisions des Cabinets, n'ont pas renoncé à l'espoir de s'émanciper un jour de cette domination; la proximité et les incessantes provocations de la Grèce ne contribuent que trop à les raffermir dans cet espoir.

Ce fut premièrement en vue de ce danger que la Porte se décida en 1826, à confier la Candie à l'administration de Méhémet Ali, et pendant plusieurs années le Pacha fut obligé d'y entretenir une force de 8,000 à 9,000 hommes pour la maintenir dans l'obéissance. C'est alors qu'il y envoya Moustapha Pacha, d'abord comme Commandant de la troupe, ensuite comme Gouverneur-Général de l'Ile. Par l'énergie de son administration, Moustapha Pacha parvint à comprimer tous les partis. La population Turque, jusqu'à là jouissant d'un pouvoir despotique, fut soumise à un régime régulier; et les Grecs, contenus par la crainte, et protégés en même temps contre l'oppression des indigènes Musulmans, furent moins disposés d'écouter les instigations de leurs coreligionnaires de la Grèce. L'Ile put ainsi jouir d'une tranquillité qu'elle n'avait pas connue sous les délégués de la Porte.

Moustapha Pacha, qui jouissait déjà, à son arrivée dans l'Ile, d'une fortune considérable, y acquit de grandes propriétés, qui augmentèrent son influence et l'attachement encore davantage du pays. Les richesses lui permettant de se passer des extortions, il put donner, lui le premier, l'exemple d'une administration équitable, et se concilier ainsi l'affection et la confiance de la population. En effet il n'y a qu'une voix à son égard, et tout le monde s'accorde à lui connaître les qualités d'un bon Gouverneur. Partisan d'ailleurs déclaré de la civilisation, et dépouillé de tout préjugé, il ne se laisse point influencer par des antipathies religieuses, ou par les considérations d'un sentiment exclusif. Aussi la nouvelle de sa confirmation par la Porte a été accueillie avec transport par toute la partie saine de la population; elle n'a contrarié que ceux qui espéraient trouver dans un changement l'occasion d'accomplir leurs projets coupables. Mais tout en se montrant disposé à faire sa soumission au Sultan, Moustapha Pacha a exprimé le désir d'obtenir le gouvernement viager de l'Ile. Si l'on considère cette demande comme une condition imposée par Moustapha Pacha, elle paraîtra avec raison absurde; mais d'abord ce n'est pas sous ce point de vue qu'il faut l'envisager. Moustapha Pacha est prêt à remettre l'Ile sur la simple injonction du Sultan: il voudrait seulement qu'on ajoutât à la faveur de sa confirmation celle de le nommer viagèrement, non seulement dans l'intérêt de son propre avenir, mais encore dans celui de la tranquillité de l'Ile à laquelle il doit nécessairement s'intéresser en sa qualité de grande propriétaire. En effet s'il ne fût nommé Gouverneur de Candie qu'au même titre que les autres Pachas, c'est à dire avec la perspective d'être remplacé peut-être un an après, les esprits momentanément épaissés ne renonceraient pas entièrement à l'espoir de réaliser plus tard leurs vues intéressées; les Turcs d'un côté, les Grecs de l'autre, se prépareraient en silence à profiter du premier changement pour renouveler leurs tentatives, et la confiance publique sera toujours en éveil. Si au contraire Moustapha Pacha est nommé à vie, les partis, déjà habitués à son administration et dominés par l'ascendant qu'il a su prendre sur eux, se résigneront au silence, et la Sublime Porte sera ainsi délivrée des embarras et des complications qui lui susciteraient de nouvelles intrigues dans l'Ile. L'essentiel pour la Porte, c'est d'aviser aux moyens d'assurer son autorité, et de la garantir, soit contre les intrigues, soit contre les tentatives extérieures. Si Moustapha Pacha peut remplir cette double devoir, pourquoi ne pas lui en faciliter les moyens? Assurément on ne craindra pas que l'ambition le porte à abuser de la concession de la Porte pour concevoir des projets d'indépendance; ce n'est pas un Gouverneur de Candie qui pourra jamais espérer devenir un Souverain indépendant. Il faudrait le supposer fou pour lui prêter l'espoir de se maintenir, lui Musulman, maître d'un pays habité par 150,000 Grecs et par 30,000

Tures seulement, sans l'appui de la métropole. Dira-t-on qu'il conservera de la sympathie pour son ancien maître Méhémet Ali? Et qu'importe, pourvu qu'il gouverne bien l'Ile? Une autre considération me fait désirer qu'on laisse à Moustapha Pacha le gouvernement à vie de Candie, c'est de conserver ainsi au service un homme qui, par ses lumières et ses bonnes qualités, pourra être un auxiliaire utile pour la réforme de la bonne cause. Or, dans un pays où l'intrigue dispose de tout, qui peut assurer qu'un an après qu'il aura été nommé Pacha de Candie, on ne lui retire cette place pour la donner à quelque favori, si on ne la lui assure pas par une concession viagère? Quant à moi, et vu les éléments divers qui caractérisent l'état intérieur de Candie, et la placent dans une catégorie spéciale, j'ai la certitude que tout changement d'administration dans cette Ile y amènera de grandes perturbations. Si l'intérêt public était la seule règle des déterminations du Gouvernement Turc, je croirais inutile de faire à Moustapha Pacha la concession qu'il demande, car je ne douterais pas alors qu'on ne le laisse à son poste tant que sa présence est nécessaire. Mais on ne le sait que trop, une intrigue pourra suffire pour la lui ôter, et c'est ce que je voudrais qu'on empêchât dès à présent, car, je le répète, le sort à venir de Candie m'inquiète beaucoup. Alors même que le Sultan ne voudrait pas même lui accorder explicitement le titre de viager, il faudrait toujours que le firman de sa nomination contint quelque assurance qui autorisât Moustapha Pacha à espérer que tant qu'il se conduira bien, il conservera sa place. Il me semble même important qu'on ne tarde pas à lui faire parvenir ce firman, et à demander sa soumission à l'officielle.

No. 55.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 258.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 30, 1840.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 259, I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider you to have acted quite right, in advising the Porte not to make Mustapha Pasha Governor of Candia for life. It is wholly unnecessary for the Sultan to do so; and by doing so he might create to himself much future embarrassment.

The Turkish Government, however, ought to take great care that the Candiot, and especially the Greek portion of them, are governed with equity and kindness, and have no just cause of complaint; but the Sultan should also keep in the fortresses in Candia officers and troops, upon whom he can entirely depend.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 56.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 260.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 8, 1840.

THE inclosed copy of a letter was given me by a well-known person, and it is believed to be worthy of credit. As it contributes to throw light upon the proceedings of the French, I forward it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Alexandrie, le 27 Octobre, 1840.

RIEN de nouveau s'est passé pendant cette décade: nous n'avons eu de Syrie l'arrivée d'aucune Vapeur. M. Boufort est revenu, voie de terre, de son voyage de Syrie: ses fatigues ont été tellement grandes qu'il vient d'être obligé de garder le lit, étant attaqué d'une fièvre cérébrale. La position d'Ibrahim Pacha, qu'il a vue de ses propres yeux, lui a donné un coup terrible, à lui qui croyait Ibrahim Pacha invincible, même pour les Européens. Aussi ne s'est-il jamais étendu sur la Syrie, se contentant à dire que la position d'Ibrahim Pacha sortirait de ce mauvais pas. Nous avons appris à Alexandrie le départ de l'Emir Béchir et de sa famille pour Malte; cela a paru satisfaire Son Altesse. Par la même occasion le Capitaine Fisher a déclaré que jusqu'au 20 Novembre les bâtimens neutres en lest pourraient entrer et sortir chargés; que c'est l'Amiral Stopford qui avait voulu favoriser le commerce; que passé ce terme le blocus le plus rigoureux existerait.

La même embarcation Anglaise qui a apporté la nouvelle du départ de l'Emir Béchir pour Malte, a apporté à un négociant Anglais une lettre du Commandant Fisher, dans laquelle il le chargeait au nom de l'Amiral Stopford de ne pas s'adresser à Constantinople pour arranger ses affaires, vu que là étaient ses ennemis, mais de se soumettre à la générosité de l'Angleterre, lui déclarant que s'il faisait cette démarche ses affaires s'arrangeraient à son très-grand avantage.

Son Altesse aurait, dit-on, répondu qu'il connaissait la puissance de l'Angleterre; qu'il savait aussi que cette nation, qu'il avait toujours protégée plus que la France, et cela injustement, avait été la première à tourner ses armes contre lui; qu'il avait choisi la France pour médiatrice; que ces deux Puissances étaient voisines; qu'elles pouvaient s'entendre entre elles, mais que lui ne ferait jamais que ce que voudrait la France. Ayant complètement échoué, l'on a voulu employer l'influence de Boghos Bey, et de M. Anastasi, qui avait reçu une lettre du Comte Medem dans laquelle il l'engageait à appuyer cette démarche. Quand ces deux personnages se sont présentés à Son Altesse pour lui parler du même sujet, Son Altesse les a repoussés avec indignation, disant qu'il n'aurait jamais cru que des gens qui se disaient être ses amis pourraient lui faire une aussi indigne proposition. Le soir le Consul de France étant allé au palais, Son Altesse lui a tout raconté, disant que ces messieurs cherchaient à le détacher de la France. Le même jour (le 24 Octobre,) est entré dans le port le "Météor," portant de grandes nouvelles pour le Pacha; d'abord la réponse de M. Thiers au mémorandum de Lord Palmerston, plus l'ultimatum adressé aux Cinq Puissances. Dans cet ultimatum il serait notifié à la Sublime Porte la révocation de la déchéance de Méhémet Ali, et la déclaration à toutes les Puissances que la France prend sous sa protection Méhémet Ali, et lui garantit ses droits. Quand Son Altesse a eu cette nouvelle, le sang de contentement est monté au visage de Méhémet Ali; au moment, on a craint pour ses jours.

La population est résignée à tout événement: l'on viendrait lui annoncer le bombardement d'Alexandrie, qu'on ne serait pas étonné. Le Nil est toujours à vingt-trois pieds; pour peu que l'hiver soit rigoureux la Basse Egypte ne pourra pas ensemer les blés. Le Pacha continua à exiger les droits de terrain encore inondées: la misère est à son comble; Alexandrie est obligé de renvoyer des grains dans l'intérieur; le peu de village qui reste, meurt de faim, leur grain ayant été emporté par l'eau de Nil.

L'on assure que les Anglais ont renoncé au bombardement de St. Jean d'Acre. M. le Comte Walewski est toujours à Alexandrie; il a très-souvent des conférences avec le Pacha, qui l'a pris en très-grande amitié.

Le grand vapeur Anglais de la correspondance des Indes est devant le port, et attend la malle des Indes, qui ne viendra pas à ce qu'on pense.

Le Commandant Fisher a reçu hier le bateau à vapeur le "Vesuvius," qu'il avait demandé pour s'en servir pour parlement à l'entrée du port lorsque le cas l'exigeait.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston. — (Received November 29.)

(No. 262.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 8, 1840.

I HAVE learnt privately, but with certainty, that the French Embassy has assured the Sublime Porte that Her Majesty's Government have strongly disapproved of the deposition of Mehemet Ali.

I have found an occasion to state to his Excellency Rechid Pasha, that your Lordship has fully approved of that measure, and considers it a necessary one.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Extrait d'un Rapport de M. Laurin.

Beyrout, le 16 Octobre, 1840.

VOICI la manière dont s'exprima l'Emir Béchir sur les plans ultérieurs d'Ibrahim Pacha.

On avait formé le projet d'envahir l'Anatolie avec 30,000 hommes de troupes régulières et avec autant de Bachi-bozouk de Hanadi et de Bédouins. Mais Méhémet Ali n'était pas d'accord avec lui-même sur la date de l'exécution de ce plan. Il espérait, d'un côté, un arrangement amiable de son affaire et la médiation de la France; il redoutait, de l'autre, l'apparition de l'Armée Russe. Plus tard on promit des renforts qui devaient venir d'Egypte. Mais lorsque l'insurrection des Maronites eût éclaté, on dut renoncer au projet d'invasion, d'autant plus que les chefs de district en Anatolie avec lesquels Méhémet Ali s'était mis en rapport, avaient été pour la plupart destitués et remplacés par des personnes inconnues.

En outre les fonds nécessaires étaient en retard, et les Bachi-bozouk demandaient, d'un ton menaçant, le paiement de leurs arrières. L'Armée avait beaucoup de malades, peu de médecins, et un habillement à peine suffisant. Encore au commencement de Février l'Armée régulière était forte de 90,000 hommes, mais elle a été tellement affaiblie par la désertion et la mortalité, qu'à présent il peut à peine être question des deux tiers. Depuis le débarquement des Alliés à Djounie les Egyptiens ont perdu au-delà de 17,000 hommes, et un nombre égal à celui-ci est prêt à se débarrasser dès que l'Armée s'avancera plus loin.

Ibrahim Pacha a douze régiments de Cavalerie, quatre régiments d'Artillerie, et trois régiments d'Infanterie disponibles, et sur lesquels il peut compter. Mais ceux-ci ne pourront être employés que dans la plaine. Le reste de l'Armée est sédentaire et ne peut bouger sans danger pour la possession de la Syrie. C'est ainsi que les 4,000 hommes qui forment la garnison de St. Jean d'Acre, les 800 qui sont à Eskalon, et les 1,400 qui se trouvent aux environs de Gaza, Jaffa et Kaifa, ne peuvent être déplacés sans compromettre la sûreté de ces places. Il en est de même des 3,000 hommes de Tripoli et de Lataquia. Dans ces lieux le peuple s'insurgerait aussitôt. La même chose arriverait si on rappelait seulement une partie des 7,000 hommes, qui se trouvent actuellement à Antioche. Killis et Antab, Tarsous, Adana, Marache et Albistan, ne comptent que 8,000 hommes qui ont assez à faire pour garder la frontière et les forts de Kulek-boghas et de Beilan. Les garnisons de Homs, Alep, et Hama ne sont fortes que de 6,000 hommes, et Ibrahim Pacha lui-même en a reconnu l'insuffisance. A Damas il n'y a qu'un régiment d'Artillerie et quatre compagnies de Baltadjis. Mais entre Balbek et Zahlé, dans le village de Malaca, se trouve campé Ibrahim Pacha avec 6,000 hommes et sept pièces de campagne derrière un fossé.

Par conséquent, si les Alliés veulent se borner à la guerre de montagne, ils n'auront à combattre, outre les garnisons, que l'Armée de Malaca. S'ils descendent

dans la plaine de Balbek, ils y trouveront la Cavalerie, l'Artillerie, et les trois régiments d'Infanterie.

Parmi les troupes mentionnées jusqu'ici on ne comprend pas le 12,000 à 15,000 hommes cantonnés à Orfa, et que Méhémet Ali a poussés en avant dans le but d'atteindre plus tôt Diarbekir au cas où il ferait une invasion dans l'Anatolie.

L'Emir Béchir pense que cette Armée, composée pour la plupart de troupes irrégulières, pourrait être, sans inconvénient, retirée, et réunie à la susdite Armée de Balbek. Elles présentent alors un effectif de 20,000 à 22,000 hommes. Mais on pourrait s'en rendre maître de la manière suivante.

D'après le plan d'Ibrahim, c'est de Damas que cette Armée doit recevoir ses munitions de guerre et de bouche et toutes ses autres ressources. Elle serait ruinée dès qu'on lui couperait ses communications avec la dite ville, ce que peut se faire en lançant sur ses derrières les Druses du Haouran, de Hasbié, et de Rahachié, qui sont prêts à s'insurger.

Ibrahim Pacha ne se battrait alors que pour gagner la grande route de Damas à Gonetra, et St. Jean d'Acre. Il faudrait ne pas l'arrêter, mais le poursuivre et ne lui couper la retraite qu'à Eskalon et Gaza, où il ne pourrait arriver que très-affaibli. Cette poursuite pourrait être confiée, en toute sûreté, aux insurgés qu'il s'engageait (l'Emir) à organiser et à conduire. Les Chefs les plus influents du Haouran, de l'Anti-Liban, et de Naplous, lui ont fait, dit-il, les propositions les plus acceptables. Il n'a qu'à les sommer de se lever et ils se rendront à son appel.

Pour ce qui regarde les garnisons, elles se soumettront successivement au Sultan après l'expulsion d'Ibrahim Pacha, et de cette manière on épargnerait beaucoup de sang et de matériel.

L'Emir n'était pas à même de nous dire si les magasins, &c. se trouvaient ou non en bon état.

Il pensait que l'Armée était approvisionnée pour quatre mois, mais seulement de pain, de fèves, et de lentilles.

C'est à St. Jean d'Acre, continua l'Emir, qu'on a transporté le blé qu'on a enlevé, sans le payer, aux paysans de la Judée aussitôt après la révolte. A Damas il y a des dépôts de blé considérables, mais pas de bonne qualité.

L'Armée n'est pas payée et n'a pas d'habits pour la saison qui approche. L'esprit dont elle est animée est celui des esclaves; ce qui les fait rester sous les drapeaux, c'est la crainte des châtimens corporaux et l'impossibilité de s'enfuir. Les Chefs de l'Armée sont soumis, mais non dévoués à Ibrahim. Les troupes sont sur un très-mauvais pied avec les indigènes. La répugnance est réciproque et s'accroît journellement. Une révolte générale va être la conséquence d'un état si violent.

Dans le cours de la conversation l'Emir me dit aussi ce qui suit. Méhémet Ali voulait conquérir la Turquie. Il l'aurait pu faire, car Dieu lui avait donné bien de moyens. Mais il n'aurait pu y parvenir que par un régime de justice et d'humanité. Or, il s'en est si peu soucié que les Syriens ne se sont jamais trouvés dans une situation plus affreuse que depuis trois ans. Nulle part on ne trouvait ni justice, ni appui, ni sûreté. Les paysans de la plaine étaient dépouillés par les soldats et par les employés civils, d'abord de leur récolte, ensuite de leurs bestiaux; après cela on les chassait dans les montagnes. C'est de là qu'ils menacent maintenant de descendre pour se venger cruellement de leurs oppresseurs.

M. Steindl to Baron Stürmer.

Monsieur le Baron,

Beyrout, le 21 Octobre, 1840.

CE n'est que hier matin que j'ai reçu l'instruction que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 6 de ce mois, et par laquelle elle

a bien voulu me faire connaître l'envoi en Syrie et le but de la mission du Père Etienne, Supérieur-Général des Lazaristes. J'en fus informé par M. Laurin le jour qu'il s'embarqua sur le bateau à vapeur à Alexandrie; aussi craignais-je qu'il ne gagne le Patriarche des Maronites avant que je puisse m'aboucher avec lui.

Mais à mon arrivée devant Djounie, je fus informé du contraire. Le Père Etienne était effectivement arrivé, peu de jours avant moi, à bord d'un pyroscaphe Français devant Saïda, venant d'Alexandrie pour empêcher les habitants Catholiques du Mont Liban, par l'influence du clergé, à embrasser la cause du Sultan et à s'armer contre Méhémet Ali. M. Laurin avait profité du même pyroscaphe pour en prévenir M. le Baron Bandiera.

Avant que le Père Etienne eut le temps de descendre à terre, le Père Leroi, Préfet du Couvent des Lazaristes à Antaura sur le Liban, à deux heures de distance de Djounie, et parent du Père Etienne, se rendit auprès de celui-ci, après avoir obtenu le consentement de l'Amiral Stopford, qui lui était nécessaire, comme le Couvent d'Antaura se trouvait au-deçà de nos avant-postes. Cette permission lui fut accordée par l'Amiral Anglais parce que celui-ci n'ignorait pas que le seul conseil que le Père Leroi pouvait donner au Supérieur-Général, dans l'état où se trouvaient déjà les habitants de la montagne et surtout le clergé Maronite, était celui de répartir sur-le-champ, sans même mettre pied à terre. En effet tous les montagnards qui avaient pu se mettre en communication avec notre camp ou nos vaisseaux, étaient déjà venus chercher des armes et des munitions; le reste de la nation, sourd aux exhortations des nombreux et infatigables émissaires Français, attendait avec impatience le moment de pouvoir suivre leur exemple; le clergé Maronite, loin de prêcher contre le mouvement de la nation, comme l'exigeait M. Déméloise, Consul de France à Beyrouth, encourageait sous main la nation à secouer le joug Egyptien. De plus il y a en Syrie différents rites Catholiques indigènes; on trouve presque de partout sur le Liban des Maronites, des Melquites (Grecs unis), des Syriens, et des Arméniens Catholiques. Le clergé de ces différentes peuplades, quoique feignant une parfaite harmonie, nourrit une certaine jalousie réciproque qui se manifeste en de certaines occasions; mais les missionnaires étrangers ont éveillé la jalousie commune de tous les prêtres indigènes, quoique ceux-ci tâchent de la déguiser autant qu'ils peuvent; raison pour laquelle le Père Etienne n'aurait guère réussi à gagner le clergé et le Patriarche Maronite.

Aussi le Supérieur des Lazaristes ne fut pas sourd aux conseils du Père Préfet, qui, établi depuis plusieurs années dans ce pays, ne pouvait pas ignorer toutes ces circonstances; il repartit pour Alexandrie peu de jours après son arrivée, ne voulant pas perdre son temps et sa peine sans le moindre résultat, comme les autres Agens Français qui parcoururent les montagnes et le littoral de la Syrie. Le bruit qui s'était répandu que d'autres Lazaristes devaient venir pour seconder leur Supérieur, est dénué de fondement.

Ne sachant pas si votre Excellence a été prévenue d'autre part du mouvement que se donnent les Emissaires Français en Syrie pour paralyser les efforts des Anglais et soutenir Méhémet Ali, je crois manquer à mon devoir si je ne portais pas à sa connaissance ce que j'ai appris.

Ce sont les Consuls de France à Damas et à Beyrouth, le Comte Rattimenton et M. Déméloise, qui dirigent les menées de ces Agens, presque tous employés des Consuls de Beyrouth et de Damas, Tripoli, Saïda, &c. M. Déméloise a même ordinairement un bateau à vapeur à sa disposition pour se rendre plus facilement d'un point de la côte à l'autre, et qu'il envoya à Alexandrie avec la nouvelle de la défection de l'Emir Béchir.

Aux premières démonstrations faites par les Anglais, M. Déméloise se rendit auprès du Patriarche Maronite, et lui ordonna au nom du Gouvernement Français, protecteur de l'Eglise Maronite, de défendre aux montagnards de sa nation, qui est la plus nombreuse, sous peine d'être excommuniée par lui, de s'armer pour se joindre aux troupes Alliées contre Méhémet Ali, menaçant, en cas contraire, que la France retirerait à la nation Maronite sa protection. M. Joussof donna pour réponse que lui, comme ecclésiastique, ne pouvait et ne voulait pas se mêler d'affaires politiques. Cette première tentative ayant manqué, M. Baudin, Chancelier du Consulat à Damas, fut envoyé auprès de l'Emir Béchir, et différents employés des Consuls auprès des autres Emirs et Chéiks, pour engager à seconder Ibrahim Pacha et ses Généraux. Ils les

engageaient, au nom du Gouvernement Français, de faire résistance pour peu de temps encore aux Alliés, qui n'étaient que très-faibles, et qui, en hiver, ne pourraient faire d'opérations militaires; en même temps ils assurèrent que dès que le temps le permettrait, une flotte Française très considérable serait envoyée pour battre et chasser de ces parages et de devant Alexandrie les forces navales Anglo-Autrichiennes; que la flotte Egyptienne se joindrait à la Française, et que de plus une Armée Française de cent mille hommes viendrait débarquer en Syrie pour en expulser les troupes Anglaises et celles du Sultan.

Les Arméniens qui sont actuellement en France n'avaient d'après eux d'autre but. M. Déméloise ayant appris à temps que l'Emir Béchir s'était décidé de se rendre à Saïda pour faire sa soumission, il alla au-devant de lui pour tâcher encore de l'en dissuader, mais il ne réussit pas mieux que M. Baudin.

C'est avec une grande peine que je dois informer votre Excellence que notre Agent Consulaire à Saïda a tenu, d'après ce qu'on m'assure, à cette occasion une conduite reprochable et en opposition à ses devoirs. Il a non seulement donné l'hospitalité à M. Déméloise à sa maison de campagne près de Saïda, mais il doit même avoir engagé l'Emir d'attendre encore au moins une dizaine de jours avant de défectionner d'Ibrahim Pacha. M. l'Amiral Bandiera, dès qu'il fut instruit de cette circonstance, conçut l'idée de faire venir M. Catafago à Beyrouth pour le soumettre à une enquête; il parait pour à présent y avoir renoncé. M. Déméloise épiait avec une joie remarquable tous nos mouvemens; avec le pyroscaphe il se rendait de partout où se trouvaient des vaisseaux Anglais, Turcs, ou Autrichiens. En outre une corvette Française, "La Brillante," était ancrée devant Beyrouth pendant tout le temps du blocus, seulement pour l'historique, comme dit une fois son Commandant à l'Amiral Stopford. Elle se trouve encore ici. Tous les efforts des Français furent partout inutiles. Habitues à promettre, sans jamais tenir parole, personne ne leur prête plus foi, et s'ils eurent jamais un peu d'influence dans ce pays ils la perdirent entièrement dans ces derniers temps. Malgré eux, l'Emir Béchir se rendit à Saïda, les Emirs et Chéiks les plus puissans vinrent chercher les Bouyouz d'Izzet Pacha après avoir fait leur soumission, et au-delà 20,000 montagnards ont été armés pour combattre les troupes Egyptiennes.

Votre Excellence m'ordonne de la tenir au courant de tout ce qui se passe ici, et surtout des mouvemens d'Ibrahim Pacha. J'ai tâché de la faire aussi bien que j'ai pu dans mon journal, dont j'ai l'honneur de lui soumettre ci-joint la quatrième continuation.

Ce Général parait avoir perdu tout espoir de pouvoir se tenir dans le Liban et garder les villes maritimes de la Syrie. Il parait même craindre d'y laisser des corps d'armée, qu'il finirait par perdre l'un après l'autre, comme cela lui est arrivé à Saïda, Beyrouth, Tsour, et à d'autres différentes occasions. C'est pourquoi, après avoir été battu à Beit-hannis par le Commodore Napier, il prit le parti d'évacuer la montagne et les villes maritimes, et de former un corps d'armée plus considérable que ceux qui avaient été défaits aux différentes attaques, dans un camp retranché à Malaka près de Zahlé, dans la plaine qui sépare le Liban de l'Antiliban. Il y fit donc venir les débris des troupes battues, quelques régimens qui se trouvaient dans le voisinage, et les garnisons de Tripoli, Tortose, et Lataquie, tout en se bornant à se tenir sur la défensive. Sous peu de jours, et quand ces troupes l'auront rejoint, il se trouvera à la tête d'une armée de 10,000 à 12,000 hommes, dont 1,500 de Cavalerie avec sept pièces de canon. Ses intentions ne sont pas connues. L'Amiral Stopford pense qu'il pourrait tâcher, voyant la Syrie perdue pour lui, ce qui met l'Egypte aussi en grand danger, de tenter un coup de tête, pour embrouiller les affaires en Europe. Sachant que la Russie enverrait des troupes en Turquie s'il avançait dans l'Asie Mineure, ce que, d'après les assertions de M. Pontois, serait considéré par la France comme une déclaration de guerre, Ibrahim, qui n'a plus beaucoup à perdre et tout à gagner, pourrait avancer en Anatolie, où il ne craint pas de rencontrer beaucoup d'obstacles, et où il compte sur la sympathie de la population Musulmane. L'Amiral Stopford ne put toutefois baser sur rien cette supposition.

Depuis l'entrée des troupes Turques et Anglaises à Beyrouth, ainsi depuis que le Commodore Napier a cédé à Sir Charles Smith le commandement des troupes de terre, aucun mouvement ne s'est fait de notre côté; on n'a pas même songé ni à fortifier Beyrouth, comme ont fait à Saïda le Capitaine Berkeley et le

Colonel de Lebzeltern, ni même à envoyer à l'Emir Béchir Skassem, qui se trouve avec 5,000 ou 6,000 montagnards, dont beaucoup manquent d'armes, les fusils, munitions, et vivres, qu'il réclame journellement; raison pour laquelle aussi cet Emir ne peut s'éloigner de Stamma, où il se trouve depuis une dizaine de jours, sans rien faire. En tout M. Smith est bien loin de jouir de la même confiance dont jouissait son prédécesseur, et non sans fondement: car le Commodore avait proposé de prendre Beyrouth d'assaut; le Colonel Smith s'y opposa, redoutant une forte résistance; et pourtant la garnison de cette ville était dans un état si pitoyable, qu'au seule approche de vaisseaux de guerre, qui eut lieu avant que le Colonel n'eût émis son opinion, Solymân Pacha abandonna la place en toute hâte. Il en fut autant de Tripoli. Le jour que le Commodore voulait attaquer Ibrahim Pacha, M. Smith lui fit donner deux fois contre-ordre, et de plus il lui fit enjoindre de se retirer de devant l'ennemi et de rentrer au camp de Djounie, ce qui n'aurait pas manqué de produire un effet moral très désavantageux pour nous, tant chez les Turcs que chez les Egyptiens. M. Napier attaqua malgré l'ordre positif donné par l'Amiral Stopford sur la demande de M. Smith, et au bout de quelques heures Ibrahim fut battu et obligé de quitter la montagne en toute hâte, de crainte d'être fait prisonnier par les montagnards. Une certaine jalousie que Sir C. Smith ne laisse pas faire transpirer, contribue aussi beaucoup à ce que le Commodore lui soit préféré même par les Anglais. On le croit du reste trop âgé et trop faible pour faire la guerre dans la montagne.

Izzet Pacha joue de son mieux le rôle passif qui lui est assigné, sans pourtant pouvoir déguiser entièrement son dépit, et tout aussi peu son caractère prépotent et féroce, qui lui a attiré la haine de ceux qui furent placés sous ses ordres. Les Anglais ne l'aiment pas malgré sa politesse outrée envers eux, et les Turcs, malheureux de l'avoir pour Général-en-Chef, le détestent tous, quoiqu'il tâche, pour ne point se compromettre vis-à-vis des Européens, de les traiter de son mieux et de cacher cette cruauté dont bien de personnes sont devenues les victimes. Parfois pourtant son caractère se trahit, surtout depuis qu'il s'est blessé à la jambe. Il est parfois d'une brutalité envers ses subordonnés qui s'en plaignent ouvertement: l'autre jour il avait ordonné, en contravention avec le Hattî-Chérif, de donner 500 coups de bâton à son cuisinier pour avoir mis trop de sel dans la soupe; un Dragoman de l'Amiral Stopford, qui, par bonheur pour cet infortuné, se trouvait présent, intercédait pour lui, et obtint sa grâce.

Le vieux Emir Béchir n'est pas encore parti pour Malte; il se trouve toujours à Saïda pour embarquer sa famille. Je n'ose pas entretenir plus longtemps votre Excellence sur cette mesure, prise par l'Amiral Stopford et M. Wood, mais désavouée par beaucoup de personnes (même par des Anglais), et particulièrement par M. Laurin. Je pense que ce Consul-Général, ainsi que M. l'Amiral Bandiera, auront informé votre Excellence de tout ce qui regarde ce vieillard presque octogénaire, qui, par sa cruauté, sa cupidité, ses intrigues, et ses autres mauvaises qualités, a puissamment contribué autant dans ses dernières années au malheur de la nation dont il était le Prince.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

(Signé)

STEINDL.

No. 60.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 264. Extract.)

Therapia, November 8, 1840.

I HAVE this evening received the inclosed Report from Mr. Wood.

P.S.—I likewise inclose a Report I received from Sir Charles Smith as an inclosure in one of his letters, which your Lordship may think worth reading.

Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Beyrouth, October 29, 1840.

THE evacuation of Tripoli, on the 18th instant, has been followed by that of Tortosa, Latakia, and Antioch, the same is reported of Beilam and Scanderoun, and Kourk-Kolak.

The Governor of Tripoli has joined the Sultan's standard, and Mohammed Bey, the commanding officer of the garrison, has been seized by the mountaineers of Akkar. They have also made a great number of prisoners, and have dispersed the remainder of his troops. Many of the troops that evacuated Latakia have deserted and returned to the Sultan.

Ibrahim Pasha is withdrawing his forces rapidly from the frontiers of Asia Minor, according to the report of the Emir Bechir, which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

Though not anything positive is known with regard to Aleppo, yet it is rumoured that the people have shut the gates of the town against the Egyptian troops, and occupy it in the name of the Sultan.

Sheik Said of Beled Supet to the south has come to me to Beyrouth, and I presented him to his Excellency Izzet Pasha, who gave him a Boyourouli to return to his district, and collect the Sheiks of Beshara, Souf, Gebel Nablous, Gebel el Kods, and endeavour to cut off the communication between Ibrahim Pasha's camp and Acre, which has been done. I could not procure for Sheik Said more than 800 muskets, but the moment arms arrive, either from Malta or Constantinople, he is to be furnished with a sufficient number to enable him to close on the left flank of Ibrahim's army, assisted by the Druses of Hasbeya and Raskeya, who had unanimously declared in favour of the Sultan previous even to their being provided with arms.

Some time since I addressed a circular letter to the Sheiks of the Haouran and el Ledjea, and on the 25th instant twenty-seven of them, accompanied by 200 horsemen, came personally to make their submission.

They were well received; robes of honour were given to them, and they have left yesterday for their homes with instructions to harass the rear of the Egyptians.

The people of the Haouran have already intercepted two convoys, and are carrying on their operations to within a short distance of Damascus.

The mountaineers of Akkar and Sappita to the north of Tripoli, with the Emir Hangiar, will take possession of the road and bridge of Homs and Hamah, and so separate the army of the north from that of the south, the moment we can provide them with 4,000 stand of arms.

I hope, therefore, that in a few days they will have the means of annoying and occupying the right flank of Ibrahim, by which he will be completely hemmed in and surrounded.

I feel confident that the moment Sir C. Smith thinks fit to advance on his front with the Emir Bechir, the natives who are on his rear and flanks will be encouraged to fall or close upon him, when, if the Turkish troops display the same firmness they have shown hitherto, he must either capitulate with his whole army, or be cut to pieces.

If advantage be taken of the enthusiastic feeling of the natives at this moment, and of the panic of the Egyptians, the campaign in Syria ought to terminate in a fortnight hence; if not, the winter may materially change and retard our chances of success.

The French are indefatigable in their intrigues, and endeavour to persuade the Syrians that they are going to war with us in the spring.

Though I hear nothing more of the proposal to Mehmet Ali for their occupation of Acre, yet I am told positively that the last French steamer disembarked at that place four French engineer officers.

To prevent similar occurrences, as also the constant communication

of French steamers of war with the coast, coming from Alexandria, I have proposed re-establishing the Quarantine, which suggestion having been acceded to, all vessels and passengers coming from Egypt will have to perform ten days' quarantine at Beyrout.

An "Ordre du Jour" will be also published to-morrow based on the one issued by Solymán Pasha, to which the French, I believe, did not then object, condemning to death all who encourage the Sultan's subjects to continue in their disobedience in any manner whatever. I hope it will have the effect of deterring the French emissaries from persevering in their machinations.

I am also anxious to establish a secret police, which I think of the utmost importance at this moment, but as it will cause an extraordinary expense, I am afraid I shall meet with opposition.

The Maronite patriarch has invited Mr. Steindl and myself to go to him to-morrow to receive the documents relative to the rights of the Maronite clergy and nation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

LE bateau-à-vapeur Français qu'il est arrivé hier à son départ de la France, il est allé à Constantinople, de là il est allé à Alexandrie, et de cette dernière ville il a pris des dépêches, et il est arrivé à St. Jean d'Acre. Après son arrivée on a destitué et mis en prison le Gouverneur Heuman Bey, et il a été remplacé par Mahmoud Bey ex-Gouverneur de Beyrout. Ensuite le bateau est allé à Jaffa, d'où le Commandant du bateau est allé à Jerusalem, et le Gouverneur de cette place a été destitué également et mis en prison. Après cela le bateau est parti de Jaffa, et il a touché à Sidon et Beyrout, d'où il s'est dirigé à Tripoli, et à son retour il doit toucher de nouveau à Beyrout, et après cela il doit se rendre à Acre, d'où il prendra des dépêches, et il ira à Alexandrie, et de là il partira pour France. Ce bateau à son départ de la France avait à son bord le nommé Monfor, lequel, après avoir fait tout le susdit trajet avec le même bateau, il a été débarqué à Beyrout.

Le nommé Nicolas Portalis, habitant de Beyrout, est un agent d'Ibrahim Pacha; celui-ci, ayant une fabrique de soie dans le village nommé Betère, qui est à cinq lieues d'ici, il y va toujours avec le prétexte de sa fabrique, d'où il correspond avec Ibrahim Pacha, et il sert de canal pour la correspondance d'Ibrahim Pacha avec Alexandrie.

D'après les apparences les Français ont l'intention d'occuper une place sur la côte de Syrie, et probablement cela sera St. Jean d'Acre, et ils débarqueront des troupes avec le consentement de Méhémet Ali.

Toutes ces nouvelles ont été données par M. le Père Rejello, aujourd'hui 24 Octobre, 1840.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 346.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 27, 1840.

I INCLOSE the "Moniteur" of yesterday and to-day, which contain an accurate report of the two first days' debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the Address.

The debate was opened by Marshal Soult. He was succeeded by M. Thiers, who, in a speech of more than three hours, defended the conduct and explained the policy of the Ministry of which he was at the head. M. Thiers avowed that it was his intention to augment the regular army to the amount of 639,000 men, to put into activity 300,000 National Guards, to suspend any explanation with the Allied Powers upon the Affairs of the

East until the spring, in order to give the time necessary to prepare these armaments, to persuade Mehemet Ali to avoid taking measures which might prematurely require the interference of France, and then, after this completion of the military preparations, insist not only on the abrogation of the Treaty of July 15th, but also on a re-consideration of the Treaties of 1815 for the purpose of adopting a new European arrangement, more suitable to the interests and glory of the French nation. Two speeches, one by M. Passy and the other by M. Guizot, occupied the whole time of the Chamber yesterday. M. Passy spoke three hours in defence of the Ministry, of which he was a member; and M. Guizot made an able reply to the speech of M. Thiers of the preceding day.

The official despatches and private letters having reference to the Eastern Question, which were read or quoted in the debate of these two days, were very numerous. The debate will not terminate before the middle of next week, and there will be a majority of more than sixty in favour of the Address. I am informed that twelve or thirteen deputies belonging to the Parti Gauche will, from their love of peace, vote with the Government on this occasion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 347.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 27, 1840.

THE "Moniteur" of this day contains a telegraphic despatch written by the French Consul-General, dated Alexandria, the 11th instant, and stating that Ibrahim Pasha had received orders from Mehemet Ali to retire with all his troops.

I have been confidentially informed that M. Cochelet, in the same telegraphic despatch, communicated to the French Government that Mehemet Ali has written a letter to the King of the French, in which he places himself entirely at the disposal of His Majesty, and solicits his good offices in his favour.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 63.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 106.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, November 17, 1840.

YOUR Lordship's despatches to No. 88, inclusive, were delivered to me by the messenger, Barnard, on the 14th instant.

In obedience to the instructions contained in No. 88, I have delivered to Count Nesselrode copies of your Lordship's despatch, No. 312, to Earl Granville, and of the despatch therein referred to, addressed by M. Thiers to M. Guizot on the 8th of October.

Count Nesselrode appears highly to approve of your Lordship's despatch, and assured me that nothing could be more satisfactory to him than the tenor of all your late communications to the French Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 64.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 110.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, November 17, 1840.

COUNT NESSELRODE appears satisfied with the speech of the King of the French at the opening of the Chambers, and also with the last news from Paris.

His Excellency has heard from Vienna, that the fears entertained by Prince Metternich as to the result of the operations on the coast of Syria had subsided, and that his courage had returned with the report of our occupation of Beyrout.

I inquired whether the late communications from Prussia and Austria had made any impression on the policy of the Imperial Cabinet, and was informed by Count Nesselrode, that he had not felt himself called upon to alter the general instructions to Baron Brunnow, which were, not to deviate from the limits of the Convention of July, but also not to oppose any reasonable overture from France.

His Excellency then told me the Prussian Minister and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had urged the necessity of the Allies adopting some measure, which would allow France to become a party to the final settlement of the Turco-Egyptian Question; as, without her accession and acknowledgment of the arrangement, whatever it might be, the work could not be complete; and that it was imperative on the Four Powers to consider beforehand what course they ought to adopt, under the various changes that might arise during the contest now carrying on in the East.

Count Nesselrode appears not to have thought it necessary to meet their wishes in giving any special instructions on these points, and has answered them evasively.

I reported in my No. 105, that the Prussian Minister and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires were dissatisfied with the reception by Count Nesselrode of their late communications; and I may now add that this feeling is quite reciprocal. Count Nesselrode has had some difficulty in explaining his reasons for not adopting the suggestions of their Cabinets, and thus all parties are displeased.

The failure of these attempts is attributable in some degree to the impressions received by Count Nesselrode of the feelings of Her Majesty's Government, and of the anxious desire of the Emperor that Great Britain and Russia should form a strong alliance, considering, as he does, that their combined means of coercion are sufficient, without the assistance of Austria and Prussia, to effect the object of the Convention of July.

The Constantinople post has been due several days, and our last direct news from Syria is only up to the 14th October.

Count Nesselrode's messenger to London will be despatched on the arrival of the Turkish post.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 65.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Bloomfield.

(No. 108.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 2, 1840.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 110, in which you state that Count Nesselrode had told you that the Prussian Minister and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had urgently recommended that the Allies should adopt some measure which would allow France to become a party to the final settlement of the Turco-Egyptian Question.

I have to state to you, that it would seem that the execution of that part of the Treaty of 15th July, which relates to the arrangements to be made between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, will be completed whenever those arrangements

shall have been agreed to by both parties by the aid of the Four Powers; but it is difficult to see in what way France could now come in as a party to the settlement of those arrangements. For France declined to take an active part in the Alliance as a supporter of the Sultan; and in the recent debates in the French Chambers it has been openly avowed, that France is the supporter of Mehemet Ali. If then France were now to come into conference with the other Four Powers, for the purpose of settling the details of the final arrangement between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, she would come into that Conference as the avowed protector of Mehemet Ali, and would thus bring into the Conference an element of discord instead of the means of conciliation.

No such distinct proposition, however, as that mentioned in your despatch as having been made to Count Nesselrode, has been yet made to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 66.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord William Russell.

(No. 98.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, November 16, 1840.

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, (No. 317,) reporting the substance of a conversation with M. Guizot on the Turco-Egyptian Question.

I have to instruct your Lordship to communicate to Baron Werther that part of Earl Granville's despatch which refers to a conversation which Baron Bulow is stated to have had, since his return from Berlin, with M. de Bourqueney, and to say to Baron Werther that the Prussian Government was, no doubt, entitled to refuse, as it has done, to afford any assistance whatever in the execution of the arrangements of the Convention of July 15, and to decline sending even a musket or a cartridge to the Syrians. And Her Majesty's Government value so highly the moral support which Prussia has given to the Alliance, by being a Contracting Party to the Convention, that they are quite content therewith, and have abstained from pressing the Prussian Government to take any steps which that Government thinks inconvenient to itself.

But then Her Majesty's Government imagined that they might reckon upon having the moral weight of Prussia in favour of the Alliance, and did not expect to find that moral weight thrown into the scale of France; and least of all did Her Majesty's Government expect that the Government of Prussia would enter into communication with that of France, without the knowledge of the British or of the Turkish Governments, for the purpose of determining that on some given day the operations of the British fleet in the Levant, and of the Turkish troops in Syria, should cease.

If Prussia imagined that such a cessation of operations could contribute to accelerate the accomplishment of the arrangements of the Treaty, though it is not very apparent how such an effect could be so produced, Her Majesty's Government was entitled to expect that the proposal should have been made, in the first instance, to the British Government, and not to the Government of France.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 67.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 1.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Berlin, November 25, 1840.

ON receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, No. 98, desiring me to complain of the conduct of Baron Bulow, in proposing to the French Minister at London, without your Lordship's knowledge, that hostilities in Syria should cease on a given day, I wrote a private letter to Baron Werther, in which I embodied your Lordship's language. I preferred this form, as it assured my complaint being carried to the King.

Baron Werther desired me to call on him to-day. He said that the King was much hurt at the language held by your Lordship and myself; that it was unfair to say, that Prussia had contributed no material support towards executing the Treaty; for if she had not sent arms or troops to Syria, she had assumed an imposing attitude on the Rhine, and had charged her Minister at Paris to say, that the first shot fired in any part of the world against any of the parties of the Alliance would be considered as a shot fired against Prussia; that whether material support was contributed in the East or the West mattered not, so long as it was contributed in furtherance of the execution of the Treaty; that in regard to the moral support of Prussia, every Agent had been instructed to say, that the King had entered frankly and cordially into the Alliance, and would not desert it.

Baron Bulow, on leaving Berlin, had been instructed to give every support to your Lordship; he had no other instructions; and in his despatches does not mention his conversation with M. de Bourqueney. Baron Werther thinks, that the French Minister has given an importance to some trifling conversation which it did not deserve; and he will desire Baron Bulow to give any explanation to your Lordship that may be demanded. But he repeated again, that the King and himself were much hurt by your Lordship's distrust of the sincere adherence of Prussia to the Quadruple Alliance.

Baron Werther had just communicated to the King the news of the taking of St. Jean d'Acre, which had given his Majesty the greatest pleasure.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 68.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord William Russell.

(No. 110.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 2, 1840.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 60, of the 25th ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation with Baron Werther, relative to the language stated to have been held by Baron Bulow to M. de Bourqueney, on the Turco-Egyptian Question, which formed the subject of my despatch to your Lordship, No. 98, of the 16th of November.

I have to acquaint your Lordship that, since my despatch above referred to was written, Baron Bulow has fully and satisfactorily explained to me the matter to which it relates; and it appears, as Baron Werther supposes, that the French Chargé d'Affaires in London, and the French Minister at Paris, gave to a casual conversation a degree of importance which was not intended by Baron Bulow to be attached to it.

With respect to Baron Werther's language regarding the support given by Prussia to the execution of the Treaty of the 15th of July, I have to instruct your Lordship specially to assure Baron Werther that Her Majesty's Government most highly appreciate the valuable and important aid which the accession of Prussia to the Treaty of July has afforded to the Alliance, and Her Majesty's Government have witnessed, with extreme gratification, the dignified and

energetic attitude which Prussia is taking with reference to the possibility of an invasion of Germany by France.

Her Majesty's Government, however, trust that the turn which events have now taken in the Levant and in Paris will remove every chance of war in Europe.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 69.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 350.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 30, 1840.

I APPRIZED your Lordship, in my despatch of Friday last, that I had been confidentially informed that the whole of the telegraphic despatch, containing intelligence of the orders given to Ibrahim Pasha to return with his army from Syria, had not been published in the "Moniteur," and that the unpublished part of it stated that a letter had been addressed by Mehemet Ali to the King of the French, placing himself at the disposal of His Majesty, and soliciting His Majesty's intervention in his behalf with the Sultan and the Allies of the Porte. This letter of Mehemet Ali has been received, but it is not intended to make known the receipt of it; and the only answer given to it, will be a reference to the advice which M. Cochelet was instructed to press upon Mehemet Ali, to accede to the conditions which Sir Robert Stopford has been authorized to offer.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 70.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 357.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 4, 1840.

THE general discussion on the Address in the Chamber of Deputies terminated yesterday. It lasted eight days. The "Moniteurs" which I transmit to your Lordship, contain an accurate report of the speeches which have been delivered. Those of M. Guizot, of M. Thiers, of M. Berryer, of M. Lamartine, of M. Villemain, of M. Jaubert, and M. Teste, are the most worthy your Lordship's perusal.

The speeches of M. Thiers and of M. Jaubert, late Minister of Public Works, are remarkable for the disclosure of the views and projects of the late Ministry. M. Thiers avowed that the object of the immense armaments which it was his intention to have proposed had he remained in office, was not only to force a retraction by the Allied Powers of the stipulations of the Treaty of July, but also a revision of the settlement of Europe, as established by the Treaties of 1815. M. Jaubert declared that he waited with impatience for the day of vengeance against England, and in his violent anger, he let out the secret, to the great annoyance of his former Colleagues, that one of the objects of the recall of the French fleet to Toulon, was to seize the Balearic Islands. M. Guizot spoke with great ability, with firmness, and moderation; and the Marshal Soult, when attacked yesterday in the Chambers for writing a civil private letter to an English gentleman, in which he expressed his hope for the continuance of the alliance between England and France, notwithstanding the disagreement upon the Eastern Question, answered the attack by referring to the cordial reception he had experienced from the people of England when Ambassador at the coronation of Her Majesty, and said he would repeat now what he had declared at that time, that his wish was for the perpetuity of the

alliance between the two countries, as the best guarantee for the peace of the world.

The debate on the paragraphs of the Address will probably be closed to-morrow. The Commission of the Chambers has itself altered the second and third paragraphs, and they have adopted language stronger than they originally proposed respecting the determination of France to watch over the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe, and not suffer it to be infringed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 71.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 343.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 4, 1840.

HER Majesty's Government have learnt, with great satisfaction, from your Excellency's despatch No. 350, of the 30th ultimo, that the French Government has given to Mehemet Ali advice which is so well calculated to bring to an early and satisfactory conclusion the present troubles in the territories of the Sultan, and which does so much credit to the conciliatory spirit of the Cabinet of Paris.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 72.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 7.)

(No. 61.)

My Lord,

Berlin, November 30, 1840.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches to No. 106 inclusive.

I communicated the substance of them to Baron Werther. His Excellency approves the course pursued by your Lordship, and looks forward with satisfaction to a prompt termination of the Oriental Question.

Baron Werther expressed the hope that no objection would be made to any form that would be agreeable to the French Government, and induce them to join their efforts to those of the Allies to terminate the differences existing between the Pasha of Egypt and the Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 73.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 265.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 11, 1840.

WITH reference to your Lordship's instructions, No. 206, I have to state, that Sir Charles Smith told me when he was at Therapia, that Admiral Sir Robert Stopford had fixed the 27th of September as the day for his departure from the Syrian coast. The Admiral had, at Sir Charles Smith's request, promised to remain until Sir Charles's return; it is therefore more than probable, that the report of Admiral Bandiera was perfectly correct.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

P.S.—Sir C. Smith was to be back at Beyrout the end of September, and he did leave this place for Beyrout on the 4th of October.

No. 74.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 267.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 11, 1840.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Wood, and I cannot neglect this opportunity of telling your Lordship, that Admiral Walker this morning assured me, that the ability and exertion of Mr. Wood had done more towards the success obtained in Syria, than any other man, excepting Commodore Napier.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

*Her Majesty's Ship "Thunderer," off Acre,
November 4, 1840.*

ON the 31st ultimo I embarked on board Her Majesty's ship "Thunderer," to accompany the British fleet, and Admiral Walker Bey, on an expedition against Acre, in the bay of which place we arrived on the 2nd instant.

On the 3rd, the vessels took up their several positions off the fortress, and opened a terrific fire soon after two o'clock, p.m., which was continued throughout the day, reducing the town, in a very short interval of time, to a heap of ruins.

During the bombardment, one of the inclosed magazines exploded, sending into the air no less than 1,200 miserable beings, and spreading destruction everywhere by the shower of stones that followed it. Part of the fortifications on the land side suffered greatly from it. The remaining troops abandoned it in the night, information of which being carried on board to Walker Bey, a body of men were immediately landed, and Acre was taken possession of in the name of the Sultan, whose victorious standard was seen floating on the ramparts at daybreak.

I can pay no greater tribute to the gallantry of the British, Ottoman, and Austrian Admirals, and of the officers serving under them, than by recording the fact of the capture of Acre in three hours and a half after the signal was made to engage, which fact alone bespeaks more of their gallantry and exertions in the cause of the Sultan, than any terms of mine can possibly convey.

I visited the town early this morning, where I met Sir Charles Smith and his Excellency Selim Pasha (whose efforts in the service of his Sovereign are beyond all praise); and never have I witnessed such a scene of utter desolation and destruction before. It surpasses all description. Suffice it to say, that the dead bodies of men, of animals, and fragments of walls, meet one's view in every direction.

Sheik Hamid-el-Bek, the Mutuali Chief, about whom I have had already the honour of writing to your Lordship, had received orders to join us outside of Acre. On his way he fell in with the fugitives, and attacked them; but as they had with them seven field pieces, he was obliged to allow them to pass, after losing 200 of his followers.

I need not remark on the joy that the news of the capture of Acre will produce in the country. I trust it will encourage the natives to co-operate actively and heartily with us in dispersing and driving out of Syria Ibrahim

Pasha and the remnants of his Army; towards effecting which, I have presented to his Excellency Selim Pasha several influential Sheiks of note, namely: Sheik Said, to take the temporary command of the districts of Safet, Tiberias, Nasra, Sahil Aklif, Shefi Omar, Il Gebel, Saour, and Sahl, and guard, with the assistance of the natives, the passes of Djise-binat-yacoub and Lebteha Bogas; Sheik Hamid-el-Bek and Sheik Hasn-el Suleiman, to guard the country of Beshara; Sheik Hafy (Turkoman Chief), to guard the road from Djise to Damascus; Sheik Abdul-Rahman, to take possession of Djebel Halil (Hebron); and Aisabga, Governor of Gaza, to declare immediately for the Sultan, to govern that district in his name, and to intercept all the convoys from Egypt. Should he consent to act for the Sultan, and I am assured positively he will, an inland communication will be then established as far south as Gaza, bordering on Egypt, and all the intermediate country may be considered as having returned to its allegiance to the Porte.

Some of these Sheiks are to be furnished with arms, and are to cut off all communication with Egypt. They are further directed to cut off Ibrahim Pasha's retreat, if possible, or to be prepared to close on him in case they are ordered to do so.

While I beg respectfully to offer my sincere congratulations to your Lordship on the signal success that has attended your Excellency's efforts to restore Syria to the Sultan, I may be permitted confidently to assert that, if the same energetic measures are steadily pursued, and advantage be taken of the actual demoralization of the Egyptian troops, Ibrahim Pasha must relinquish in a couple of weeks all hopes of further resistance, and must think of securing his retreat to Egypt.

I regret not to have it in my power to state precisely the number of prisoners made, but they may be estimated at nearly 3,000. We had only 14 men killed, and 26 wounded.

Though a great part of the ammunition and stores must have been destroyed by the explosion of the Arsenal, still an immense quantity of *matériel de guerre* remains, among which, I am happy to be able to add, is the park of artillery taken at Nezib.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 75.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, November 16, 1840.

SINCE I had last the honour to address your Lordship, Mehemet Ali has given unequivocal proofs of his dissatisfaction with the French Government, and evinced the strongest desire to settle differences with the Sultan through the mediation of the Four Powers.

On the 8th instant, M. Cochelet had a public audience, for the purpose of presenting some officers; Mehemet Ali was at the time in conference with Achmet Pasha, and other officers of the fleet, when before them, and in the presence of many Europeans, he loudly complained of the treatment he had received from the French Government, telling M. Cochelet that the present disastrous state of his affairs was entirely owing to his having listened to the counsels of France; then, addressing those around him, he said that he had lost all confidence in the French Government, and had abandoned the hope of its affording him any effectual aid in the present crisis, and that in future he would be guided by his own views.

The following day he received the intelligence of the fall of Acre, which threw him into the deepest dejection; he, however, shortly afterwards despatched a courier to Ibrahim Pasha, with instructions to evacuate the whole of Syria, and intimated to those in his confidence that he was now prepared to

give up the Turkish fleet, and comply with all the demands of the Sultan, provided he could be insured the quiet possession of Egypt.

In furtherance of this resolution, he gave orders that the ships of the fleet, which had lately been prepared for service, should be immediately dismantled, and the crews for the time placed in the land batteries, which order is being rapidly executed.

M. Cochelet and M. Walewski, on learning this determination, were most indefatigable in their endeavours to dissuade Mehemet Ali from any attempt at an arrangement with the European Powers, in which France should not be the mediatrix, and for a time he seemed to waver, till the arrival yesterday of the French Post Office steamer, with the intelligence of a change of Ministry in France, appeared to confirm him in his previous resolution.

Being desirous of ascertaining the true state of affairs, I called on Boghos Bey, who confirmed what I have stated in the most positive manner, on which I hinted to him that it might be advisable to acquaint Sir Robert Stopford with the circumstance, to which he replied, that M. Cochelet having informed Mehemet Ali that there was now every prospect of propositions being made to him, regarding which there would be no difference of opinion between the Governments of Great Britain and France, he had decided on taking no step till such propositions were made, but that he nevertheless adhered to his resolution of evacuating Syria, and of giving up the Turkish fleet on being ensured the government of Egypt.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 76.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, November 24, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the 22nd instant, Captain Maunsell, of Her Majesty's ship "Rodney," came into the harbour with a flag of truce, being the bearer of a letter from Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey, the purport of which was to demand the liberty of certain Druse Sheiks made prisoners during the late events in Syria, and at the same time recommending him to urge upon Mehemet Ali the necessity of speedily settling his differences with the Sultan, by ordering the immediate evacuation of Syria, and restoring the Turkish fleet; adding, that such acts would ensure him the hereditary Government of Egypt, under the guarantee of the Allied Powers.

Captain Maunsell had an interview with Mehemet Ali, and on the following day returned to the squadron, with the answer of Boghos Bey to the Commodore's letter. In this he states that Mehemet Ali had never entertained the intention of retaining the Turkish fleet; that he was aware of the determination of the Four Powers to grant him the hereditary possession of Egypt; and that he was sending troops to the frontier of Syria, merely with the view of reopening the communications with his son.

I thought it advisable to accompany Captain Maunsell to the squadron, in order to acquaint Commodore Napier with the position of affairs, and particularly with the change in the policy of Mehemet Ali, which was the subject of my last despatch, and of which I have the honour to inclose a duplicate.

Upon these statements, Commodore Napier decided on making another communication to Mehemet Ali, by addressing a second letter to Boghos Bey, in which he called on him to state, clearly and explicitly, the intentions of Mehemet Ali respecting the evacuation of Syria, and the restitution of the fleet, offering, in the event of his complying with the wishes of the Allied Powers on these points, to guarantee him the hereditary Government of Egypt, and to afford him every facility in withdrawing his remaining troops from Syria. Captain Maunsell was again charged with this letter, the Commodore coming with us in

a steamer to the mouth of the harbour, intending, if the answer to his letter was favourable, to wait on Mehemet Ali, and bring the negotiation at once to a close.

On arriving on shore, I accompanied Captain Maunsell to the palace: it being the season of Ramazan, Mehemet Ali had not left his private apartments, consequently the letter was given to one of his officers. Shortly after he requested to see me in private; and I took this opportunity of pressing on him the expediency of at once complying with the demand of the Commodore, as the only means left him of retaining his position in Egypt, and pointed out the uselessness of further resistance, and of placing himself in opposition to the views of the Allied Powers. He immediately answered, that such was no longer his intention; that for some time past he had made up his mind both to evacuate Syria and surrender the fleet; and that he was prepared to do both on the future position of himself and family being guaranteed by Great Britain or by the Allied Powers. I said, that Commodore Napier was prepared to give the guarantee he required; on which he observed, that he feared that Commodore Napier, although willing to do so, was not invested with sufficient authority to act in a matter affecting the interests of so many Powers, and proposed that immediate notice of his intention should be given to your Lordship, requesting that Her Majesty's Government would give authority for concluding the negotiation on the basis proposed by the Commodore. I then told him that from what I had seen of Commodore Napier, I was confident that he would construe such a proposal into a desire to gain time, to which in the present state of affairs he would never consent. I also added, that up to this present moment no act of hostility had been committed against Egypt; that if unfortunately such an event should occur, it would place him in a very different position; and he might become a suppliant for those very conditions which were now freely offered to him. He then told me, he would take the subject into consideration, and give his answer on the following day; that he was willing to receive the Commodore, who, he hoped, would enter the harbour with the "Medea" steamer. This invitation has been conveyed to the Commodore, who will bring the steamer into port to-morrow, it being too late to do so this evening.

The "Oriental" steam ship having been detained beyond her time, with the view of conveying to your Lordship the earliest intelligence of events passing here, I close this despatch; and should I not have an opportunity of conveying any additional intelligence by this opportunity, I shall avail myself of the earliest that offers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 77.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, November 26, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that in accordance with what I stated in my last despatch, No. 30, of the 24th instant, Commodore Napier came on shore yesterday morning, and has since been in negotiation with Mehemet Ali, which has so far led to a satisfactory arrangement that there remains but one point on which the Commodore considers it advisable to demand further explanation.

The final propositions made by Commodore Napier were, that Mehemet Ali should give orders for the immediate evacuation of Syria; that the Turkish fleet should be got ready for sea; but that, in consideration of the doubts expressed by Mehemet Ali as to the authority possessed by the Commodore for concluding a Convention, its restitution should not take place until Mehemet

Ali should receive official assurances, that the hereditary Government of Egypt should be guaranteed by the Allied Powers.

That point on which there still remains a doubt arises from a paragraph in the last communication from Boghos Bey, which states, that instructions will be given to concentrate the Egyptian troops in Syria, in order that they may be ready for evacuating that country immediately after the receipt of the approval by the Allied Powers of the present arrangement.

As the Commodore attaches great importance to the immediate and unconditional evacuation of Syria, and as his propositions were principally based thereon, he cannot consent that an opening should exist for any misconception, which might eventually lead to an evasion of the objects contemplated: he has, therefore, made a further communication to Boghos Bey, and I have great hopes that the point will be conceded. The Commodore informs me, that he has sent copies of all the correspondence on the subject to the Admiralty, to which department he refers your Lordship, there having been no time to furnish me with copies, in consequence of his desire that the India mail on board the "Oriental" steam ship should be subjected to no further detention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have accompanied the Commodore to Mehemet Ali, and have to report to your Lordship that all doubts as to the immediate and unconditional evacuation of Syria are removed, Mehemet Ali having declared his intention of fulfilling the wishes of Commodore Napier in that respect.

No. 78.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 271.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 18, 1840.

IT is evening of this day; Mehemet Ali must have known of the fall of Akka on the 5th instant; and there are no signs here of his submission to the Sultan. Letters from Alexandria of the 6th, and I believe the 7th, mention continued efforts to reinforce Ibrahim in Syria. The partizans of the French assert, that there are discontents in Syria; they state some things as facts, which are almost ridiculous, and cannot be true; but it is true that the French Agents are indefatigable to raise disturbance in that country. I have urged the Ottoman Ministers not to allow success to make them relax in their exertions.

The Porte has recalled Izzet Pasha, which is a great good. I am endeavouring, in concert with the Internuncio, to get Selim Pasha appointed Governor; Selim, who fought so bravely, and who is faithful and also docile. The Porte has given powers to General Jochmus, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions. I have notified the fact to Sir C. Smith, and sent him an extract from the instruction.

I have relieved Mr. Wood from the duty of interpreter to Sir C. Smith, and the consequent confinement to trifling duties that anybody could perform; and I have desired him to resume his active exertions amongst the Syrians, by which he has produced such signal good, and which I fear are now needed to put an end to the disputes that have been created by bad management. I have also directed Mr. Wood no longer to consider himself Vice-Consul; I have instructed him to consider himself absolutely free from the authority and control of everybody in Syria, in his execution of the duties of the trusts reposed in him by the Porte; but to make his reports to me on all he does. In doing this I have acted in conformity with the feelings of Rechid Pasha.

We hear from Alexandria, that the people there are in ardent hope of an attack being made by the Sultan's Allies upon the city, and of their deliverance

from Mehemet Ali. It is also said, that an insurrection is not improbable, even without an attack; so odious is the rule of the Pasha, and so great the hatred against his family.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 79.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 273.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 20, 1840.

YESTERDAY M. Titow communicated to me the instruction he had just received from St. Petersburg, directing him to concur in any steps taken by his colleagues, in furtherance of your Lordship's instructions to me, No. 195, dated 15th October.

We agreed that nothing could be now done under the authority of that instruction, because Mehemet Ali has not made his submission to the Sultan; and the view we took is fortified by our having been informed, that the Internuncio's instructions, corresponding with those in your Lordship's No. 195, have lately been modified by recent instructions received from Vienna.

I have the honour to inclose three papers, communicated to me by his Excellency the Internuncio.

No. 1 shows the final arrangement with the Pasha of Candia, for the re-establishment of the Sultan's authority in that island.

No. 2 reports the situation of affairs at Cairo, and shows the loose hold of Mehemet Ali upon the people of that part of Egypt, and to what devices he has been obliged to resort to keep up the fast fading shadow of his ancient authority. This same number further reports the state of things at Alexandria, showing that the authority of Mehemet Ali is there also so low, that the least effort on the part of the Sultan would finally extinguish it.

No. 3 reports occurrences already known to your Lordship, viz., the retreat of the Egyptian troops from the Taurus, Adana, &c., &c., and it states the fact, much to be regretted, that the Turks ill-treat the Christian Rayahs in some parts of Syria, and concludes with the lamentable accident of the explosion at Acre.

With the exception of this last-mentioned event, the contents of these papers bear directly upon the subject-matter of your Lordship's instruction No. 195; for they throw a strong light upon the nature and extent of the power of Mehemet Ali, and show that it is limited and unsubstantial. If these reports are true, and they are corroborated by the evidence of all people in this country, who have had means for seeing and hearing what is passing, it will be obvious that those notions of the power of Mehemet Ali, which have been so long cherished and confided in, are unfounded in any reality; and that now, at least, there are no reasons why Mehemet Ali should be treated with any consideration by the Sultan or his Allies. He has resisted to the last; he has been the cause of expense, trouble, and inquietude to all the Powers of Europe; he has defied and deceived the Sultan; and it will only be when resistance is out of his power that he submits. The grounds upon which the French professed to support him have been cut from under them; it is proved, that he cannot add to the general strength of the Ottoman Empire; and it is proved that Mehemet Ali's object was to partition it. All he can now do is to make any settlement that may be made, less certain of duration, and less beneficial to everybody, and destructive to the poor Egyptians, if the same hand that has already reduced them to abject misery shall be confirmed by the power of enlightened Europe, as their perpetual tyrant. Mehemet Ali cannot be reduced to the position of a mere Governor of Egypt; what he has been, will give him a power that must make him mischievously formidable. His cunning; the dissatisfaction that always must exist; the disputes that will grow up in Syria; the intrigues of the French; the thirst of vengeance he will feel; the newness of unsettled reform, and amelioration in Turkey, will all operate in his favour as the disturber of the Empire; and the concession made to Mehemet Ali will prove, that an unprin-

ciple man may find security from condign punishment in the excess of his crimes.

The Porte can easily introduce into Egypt the new system of Government, and bless that country with a sensible amelioration, if it be taken from Mehemet Ali; but it is impossible for the Porte to do the smallest good for the people, if Mehemet Ali be retained.

I speak positively, because I am sure I am right. I cannot perceive any reason for maintaining Mehemet Ali in the Government of Egypt, except it be, that his power is imagined to be too great to be met by the Sultan and his Allies. The fact is, that his power is so low that nothing but the goodwill of the Allies can enable him to exist as Governor. The people of Egypt pray to be delivered from his yoke; they are even more hostile to him than the Syrians, but they have not had the means to show their hatred of him as the others have done.

If Mehemet Ali be reinstated in the Government of Egypt by the Allies, the question arises, who is to be entitled to control him, if he abuse the powers intrusted to him. He may be called the servant of the Sultan, but he must be independent in fact; for he is placed there by the Allies, and is hereditary. It is difficult to state, by what process the laws of the Empire and legal commands of the Sultan could be enforced; it is impossible to believe that Mehemet will obey them voluntarily, and the feeling the Allies show for him in re-establishing him, will be for him, and for the Sultan, and for the world, a proof, that they will never again unite for the purpose of coercing him.

If it be left to the Sultan to vindicate his own authority, it must require an armed force to do it, and that is the renewal of the evils, in part at least, to abate which there have been so many exertions made. Mehemet Ali, if re-established in the Government of Egypt, will be *de facto* the Sovereign of Egypt; but he must be so with a hostile spirit against Turkey, and with interests different from the Sultan. He will be necessarily a petty Prince, because he has so ruined the country that for years to come an enlightened and honest Government would have a difficult task to restore it to anything like prosperity and strength. The independence of Egypt of the control of any European Power, seems to be generally esteemed an object of great importance; and it may safely be said, that if Egypt be insulated and under such a villainous Government as that of Mehemet Ali, or that which alone his children, who have shown their brutal tyranny in Syria, are capable of administering, the danger to its independence would be much greater, than if it continued to be a portion of the Ottoman Empire.

It has been loudly asserted that the Sublime Porte cannot govern Egypt. The answer might be an assertion that it can, but it is better to show how the supposed difficulty can be easily met; namely, by the simple expedient of making two or three pashalicks of the country, and separating the military powers of those Pashas from the fiscal. Officers might be sent to collect the revenues, and made (in the execution of this duty) independent of the Pashas. With such regulations, rebellion against the Porte must be the result of a union of the Pashas and the subversion of the authority of the receivers of the revenue. The security of Egypt against foreign domination would rest upon the security of the balance of power amongst great States. The security of the Sultan against rebellion would rest upon the division of official authority in his province; the security of the people for an amelioration in the administration of the country, would rest upon the power the Sultan would have to superintend and regulate it, and his interest in checking abuses; and finally, the Sultan, by means of steamers, will always be able to act upon Egypt with at least as much certainty and ease as he can act upon almost any other part of the Empire by his army.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Rechid Pasha to Baron de Stürmer.

M. l'Internonce,

Sublime Porte, le 18 Novembre, 1840.

LA Sublime Porte désirant faire partir au plus tôt pour Candie Nouri Bey, porteur du firman de confirmation de Moustapha Pacha, comme Gouverneur de cette Ile, et jugeant qu'il serait convenable, dans les circonstances actuelles, de donner à cette confirmation le caractère d'une disposition consentie par les Cours Alliées, me charge de vous prier, M. l'Internonce, de vouloir bien permettre que le brick de guerre Autrichien "Le Montecuculi," seul armement Allié actuellement disponible, conduise Nouri Bey en Candie.

Votre Excellence n'ignore point que Moustapha Pacha est déjà prêt à se soumettre à l'autorité du Sultan, et que la mission de Nouri Bey n'est qu'une mesure de simple forme destinée surtout à faire cesser les incertitudes de l'Ile. Or, la présence d'un bâtiment de guerre Allié, expédié en Candie uniquement pour y conduire ce messenger, ne pourrait que puissamment concourir à faire atteindre ce but.

Nouri Bey pourra partir dans trois ou quatre jours, il en restera autant en Candie, et la Sublime Porte désirerait que le "Montecuculi" le ramenât ici.

Recevez, Monsieur, &c.,

(Signé)

RECHID PACHA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Extrait des Lettres de Caire du 3 et du 5 Novembre, et d'Alexandrie du 6 et du 7 Novembre, 1840.

CAIRE.

LA ville du Caire est continuellement dans un état d'agitation difficile à décrire. Le Gouvernement cherche à cacher les fâcheuses nouvelles qui lui arrivent de la Syrie, mais tant la prise de Beyrouth, que celle de Tarsous et d'Adana, sont connues. La défaite d'Ahmet Pacha sur l'Oronte vient d'augmenter le nombre des tristes nouvelles.

Pour animer le peuple, on lui fait croire qu'une division de 6,000 va être organisée et expédiée en Syrie, pour renforcer les garnisons de St. Jean d'Acre et de Gaza. Mais on ne sait pas d'où ces troupes surgiront, car il n'y a que treize compagnies d'Infanterie, et quatre escadrons ici et dans les environs.

Aux troupes arrivées du Hedjas on a payé deux mois sur les quarante-sept appointemens arriérés. On voulait faire le même effort à l'égard des escadres, mais les équipages Turques ayant refusé d'accepter un à compte si insignifiant, on se propose de payer la moitié des arriérés en argent comptant et le reste en blé, légumes, &c.

La population est tellement démoralisée que le Gouvernement ayant demandé 65,000 manteaux pour la troupe, les marchands refusèrent de livrer les draps, et les tailleurs, de peur d'être forcés à en confectionner, une partie se sont enfuis.

Méhémet Ali, ayant appris la défection de l'Emir Béchir, a mis en liberté les douze Emirs qu'il voulait envoyer au Senaar, comme ennemis de l'Emir. Ils rentreront dans leur pays natal pour agir sous les ordres d'Ibrahim Pacha. On ajoute que Raman Beg Gambalat, Abu Nehr et Amud Sheh, Chefs des Druses, arrêtés au Caire, à la demande de l'Emir Béchir seront chargés du commandement de l'expédition des 6,000 susmentionnée.

ALEXANDRIE.

La frégate Française "L'Embuscade," et la corvette "Bourgainville," sont arrivées le 31 Mars dans le port vieux d'Alexandrie. Ces arrivages avaient inspiré de la confiance aux amis de Méhémet Ali, mais quatre jours après on apprit le départ de la flotte Française pour Toulon, et l'enthousiasme

se refroidit depuis de jour en jour, à un tel point, que Méhémet Ali est sur le point d'être abandonné par la plupart de ses amis. Il parle encore de ses intentions de sortir avec son escadre, mais personne n'y croit plus. Ce moyen de maintenir le peuple tranquille étant usé, il cherche à l'égarer par les nouvelles que le Consul de Danemarck doit lui apporter de Vienne, et qui seraient très-favorables à sa cause.

Cependant la déchéance prononcée contre lui par le Grand Seigneur commence à faire une impression très-fâcheuse sur le peuple. On lui attribue les dégâts causés par le Nil, les maladies de l'armée de la Syrie, les défaites, défections, &c., dernièrement arrivées. Une démonstration de la part des Alliés suffirait pour faire soulever contre Méhémet Ali non seulement le peuple, mais aussi les troupes de terre et de mer. Le Rédif déclare hautement qu'il ne se battera dans aucun cas contre les troupes du Sultan.

Inclosure 3 in No. 79.

The Austrian Vice Consul to the Baron de Stürmer.

Eccellenza,

Vice Consolato Austriaco, Beirut, Novembre 8, 1840.

HO l'onore da parteciparle che il Signor de Steindl recherà a vostra Eccellenza la notizia della presa de St. G. d'Acre, ove dopo 26 ore di occupazione, si ebbe il dispiacere di vedervi saltare una mina che distrusse mezzo castello, uccise cento persone fra Inglesi ed Ottomani, ferì gravemente il Commandante della fregata Inglese la "Castore," e legghiermente il Generale Sir C. Smith.

L'Ex-Governatore di Beirut, Mahmoud Bey, che col Mudir ed altri uffiziali Egiziani aveva preso la fuga da Acre, conducendo 14 mule cariche del tesoro, fu arrestato dai montanari e ricondotto in Acre assieme a quella scorta.

In quest' istante ricevi dalla nuova che Ibrahim Pacha richiamando con tutta sollecitudine le sue truppe delle frontiere, circa 8,000 Egiziani vengono di evacuare Kalek Bugaz, Adina, Bailan, Antiochio, &c., ripiegandosi verso Aleppo, che deve essere già evacuato, abbandonando il loro bagoglio ed uccidendo quei amalati chi non potevano seguirli.

Il Signore Steindl informera vostra Eccellenza delle vessazioni Jasalti e del cattivo ed impunito procedere delle truppe Stambolline verso li Christiani Raya ed il loro Clero, cose che avranno triste conseguenze si non vengono ripressi.

Ho l'onore, &c.,

(Segnato)

GEORGIO LAURELO.

No. 80.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 277.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 21, 1840.

I HAVE mentioned the propriety of relieving Syria from the blockade, and the Sublime Porte will, I believe, take the proper steps in that matter.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

PONSONBY.

No. 81.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 266.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 12, 1840.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 271; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the arrangements which you have made respecting Mr. Wood's duties in Syria.

Her Majesty's Government have also received, with satisfaction, the intelligence contained in your despatch, of the recall of Izzet Pasha, who, by the

violence of his temper, and by the ferocity of his character, was eminently unfit for the post to which he had been appointed in Syria.

I take this opportunity to state to your Excellency that, as the Syrians have been urged by British Authorities to take up arms for the Sultan, and to declare themselves in his favour, it is peculiarly incumbent on the British Government to omit no effort to induce the Porte to make such future arrangements for the administration of the Government of Syria, as may secure the Syrians from oppression, and render them contented and prosperous.

Her Majesty's Government are not sufficiently conversant with the internal arrangements of Turkish Administration, to be able to say what specific measures would be best adapted for this purpose; but they wish your Excellency to inform them what are the intentions of the Porte in this respect; and I have to instruct your Excellency to press upon the Turkish Government in the strongest manner, that it is essential for the honour of the Sultan, and for the future tranquillity of the Turkish Empire, that the arrangements to be made on this matter should afford full security and satisfaction to the Syrians.

Some persons have suggested that some of the sea-ports of Syria which are opposite to the Lebanon district, such as Beyrout and Latakia, should be added to the Druse country, and should be placed in the hands of the Emir Bechir. But there may be doubts whether such an arrangement would be politic, and whether it would not be better for the Sultan to retain the sea-port towns more directly in his own hands, giving, however, to the Druses every possible facility of commercial intercourse by means of those sea-ports.

It has also been suggested that the Emir Bechir should have the rank of Pasha. But upon this Her Majesty's Government are unable to form an opinion.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 82.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 10.)

(No. 185.)

My Lord,

Vienna, December 2, 1840.

PRINCE METTERNICH is of opinion that the time is come to take into consideration the advice to be given to the Sultan with regard to the Government of Syria. He thinks the re-establishment of the former Pashalicks, according to their ancient divisions, the best mode which the Porte can adopt, with the exception of the fortress of St. Jean d'Acre, which he would esteem it imprudent to intrust to a Pasha, and with regard to which he suggests two modes of conduct for your Lordship's consideration.

The first would be to destroy the fortress.

The second, to place it in an efficient state of defence, to separate it with its *rayon* from the Pashalick of Acre, entrusting the command of it to a Governor named by the Porte with a garrison to be furnished and relieved from Constantinople.

The Prince leans to this second course.

With regard to the mountain, he is of opinion that it should be left exclusively under its own Chiefs, paying a very slight tribute, but the Chiefs being responsible for the maintenance of a strict police within their territories.

One doubt presents itself under this head, which Prince Metternich thinks can only be examined into and solved at Constantinople.

The Maronites have drawn up a statement of requests to be forwarded by their Archbishop to Vienna. This paper has not yet been received, but its contents have been stated through the Internuncio. The requests are in general reasonable, but there is among them the request that the Prince of the Mountain may in future be chosen from their community. Prince Metternich is unable to decide whether the grounds on which this demand is founded are valid or not, but he thinks that this nomination having hitherto been conferred upon one of the Druses, it would be inexpedient to change the established practice. He

suggests, however, a doubt whether it might not be better, both for the interests of the Porte, and for those of the populations of Lebanon, to divide the authority now held by a single Chief among a greater number, giving to each of these tribes a Prince chosen from itself. The populations to which this would be applicable would be the Maronites, Druses, Mutualis, and perhaps others. Prince Metternich, however, only submits this idea as one which may be worth examination in conjunction with the Ministers of the Porte, not as one on which his mind is made up.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 83.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 212.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1840.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 185, of the 2nd instant, reporting the opinions entertained by Prince Metternich as to the nature of arrangements which it would be expedient to make for the future government of Syria, I have to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government are aware, that in order to form a correct opinion upon these matters, they ought to have a knowledge of many details with regard to which they are at present uninformed; but that it appears to them, as far as they have the means of judging, that the opinions expressed by Prince Metternich upon all the points treated of in your Excellency's despatch, are sound and judicious; for it would scarcely be expedient for the Sultan to destroy the fortress of Acre, which, as long as it is held by a faithful Governor, would be a powerful barrier against any attack upon Syria from Egypt; and in order to retain secure possession of this fortress, it would probably, as suggested by Prince Metternich, be best to separate the command of the fortress from that of the pashalick, and to place in the fortress a garrison composed of trustworthy troops sent from Constantinople.

It also seems to be expedient that the Sultan should re-establish as nearly as possible the hitherto existing divisions of Syria; and there appears to be a great deal of reason in the idea suggested by the Prince, that the Druses, and Maronites, and the Mutualis should each be governed by a separate Chief chosen from among themselves by the Sultan. There seems, by all accounts, to be so much difference between these tribes, in regard to habits, manners, religion, and locality, that such an arrangement would not be difficult of execution, and might prevent dissensions among them.

As the Druses have hitherto had a Chief of their own, they would probably not choose to be placed under a Chief elected among the Maronites.

A copy of this despatch and of your Excellency's, to which this is an answer, will be sent to Lord Ponsonby, for his information and guidance.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 84.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 363.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 11, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches to No. 349 inclusive.

The inclosed "Moniteur" contains an account published by the French

Government of the negotiation which preceded Mehemet Ali's acceptance of the conditions proposed to him by Commodore Napier.

M. Guizot, in conversation with me upon this subject, observed that the immediate bombardment of Alexandria with which Commodore Napier menaced the Pasha, was at variance with assurances given by your Lordship, and that he was persuaded that the Commodore was not authorized by Her Majesty's Government, to employ such menace any more than to hold out to the Pasha the expectation that by making his submission to the Sultan it depended upon him to restore the throne of the Ptolemies, and found a new dynasty.

M. Guizot added, that if such language had been used by a French Agent or Officer, your Lordship would have certainly animadverted on it, as calculated to encourage Mehemet Ali to assert at a future time his independence.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 85.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 353.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1840.

WITH reference to your Excellency's conversation with M. Guizot, reported in your despatch No. 363, of the 11th instant, respecting the negotiations which preceded Mehemet Ali's acceptance of the conditions proposed to him by Commodore Napier, I herewith transmit to your Excellency a copy of a letter from Commodore Napier to me, dated the 26th ultimo, by which it will be seen that he acted upon his own responsibility and without instructions. But he has performed an useful and important service; although he certainly made a mistake in alluding to the throne of the Ptolemies.

I also inclose for your Excellency's information, a copy of Commodore Napier's despatch to the Secretary of the Admiralty, transmitting copies of his correspondence with Boghos Bey.

Your Excellency will observe, that Commodore Napier, in his letter to me, mentions the arrival at Alexandria of a French Negotiator, who, in conjunction with M. Cochelet and Count Walewski, endeavoured to prevent Mehemet Ali from acceding to Commodore Napier's terms. I should be glad if your Excellency could ascertain who this French Agent was, and by whom he was sent.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 86.

Commodore Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 12.)

My Lord,

"Medea," Alexandria, November 26, 1840.

I HAVE sent to the Admiralty copies of my correspondence with the Egyptian Government. I am not able to send the reply to my last letter, because it will not be ready till to-night, when everything will be signed. But I am just come from the Pasha and Boghos Bey, who have consented to the immediate evacuation of Syria. But as I have already kept the "Oriental" three days, I did not think it right to detain her longer. I hope I am right, and that I have done what I think you wish, and as I feel certain the Turkish Army, as it is, could not have followed up Ibrahim without cavalry, artillery, or commissariat, I thought it better to get them out of Syria by treaty. Had we attacked them at Zachlé, it would have been different; but they are retired on Damascus. A French steamer arrived here three days ago with a Negotiator, besides the one they had here; and they did all they could to prevent this. But six eighty-gun ships negotiate better than a steamer. I should have sent your Lordship a copy of the papers, but I could not any longer detain the Indian mail; therefore

I hope your Lordship will excuse the want of etiquette. I shall, probably, send a steamer home with the Convention.

I have done what I think will meet the views of the Government. I know the responsibility I incur. But an officer ought not to be afraid of acting without instructions, when it is for the advantage of his country. Boghos Bey is quite delighted at getting rid of the French, who are furious.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER.

No. 87.

John Barrow, Esq. to Lord Leveson.—(Received December 14.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, December 14, 1840.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Commodore Napier, dated the 26th of last month, and of its several inclosures, containing the correspondence which has taken place between himself and the Egyptian Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Commodore Napier to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

Sir,

*"Medea" Steamer,
Alexandria, November 26, 1840.*

I have the honour of inclosing copies of a correspondence that has taken place between the Egyptian Government and myself. I have not been able to send the reply to my last letter, as I could not get it till late this evening; but I am this moment returned from the Pasha and Boghos Bey, who have consented to the immediate evacuation of Syria; and as the India mail has been already detained three days, I do not like to detain her another.

I hope their Lordships will approve of the steps I have taken, to at once settle the Eastern Question.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

Sir,

*H.B.M. Ship "Powerful,"
Off Alexandria, November 22, 1840.*

THIS will be delivered to your Excellency by Captain Maunsell, an old acquaintance of his Highness Mehemet Ali. I send him to request his Highness will consent to release, or exchange, the Emirs and Sheiks of Lebanon, who were sent to Alexandria last July, by the authorities of Syria. The greater part of those unfortunate individuals were arrested only on suspicion of disaffection, at the instigation of the late Grand Prince, whose government of Lebanon was anything but just, or moderate, and who at last deserted Mehemet Ali.

The retaining those unhappy individuals in captivity can answer no good purpose at present: Lebanon is entirely free and armed; and come

what may in other parts of Syria, the mountains never can again fall under the rule of Mehemet Ali.

His Highness is no doubt aware of the willingness of the Allies to secure to Mehemet Ali the hereditary government of Egypt.

Will his Highness permit an old sailor to suggest to him an easy means of reconciliation to the Sultan and the other Great Powers of Europe.

Let his Highness frankly, freely, and unconditionally deliver up the Ottoman fleet and withdraw his troops from Syria; the miseries of war would then cease, and his Highness in his latter years would have ample and satisfactory occupation in cultivating the arts of peace, and probably laying a foundation for the restoration of the throne of the Ptolemies.

By what has taken place in Syria, his Highness must be aware what can be accomplished in a country where the inhabitants are disaffected to the Government. In one month, 6,000 Turks and a handful of marines, took Sidon, Beyrout; defeated the Egyptian troops in three actions; possessed themselves of 10,000 prisoners and deserters, and caused the evacuation of all the seaports, the passes of the Taurus and Mount Lebanon, and this in the face of an army of more than 30,000 men; and in three weeks more, Acre, the key of Syria, fell to the combined fleets, after a bombardment of three hours. Should his Highness persist in hostilities, will he permit me to ask if he is safe in Egypt? I am a great admirer of his Highness, and would much rather be his friend than enemy.

In the capacity of the former, I take the liberty of pointing out to his Highness, the little hope he can have of ever preserving Egypt, should he refuse to be reconciled to the Sultan.

Experience has shown that the Egyptian army in Syria are disaffected, and the whole of the country are in arms against them; and if Ibrahim Pasha is attacked by a larger and increasing Turkish force, he will probably be forced to lay down his arms. Let his Highness look to Egypt: the Turkish seamen are all disaffected; the Vice-Admiral and several of his officers abandoned him a few days ago, and are now in the squadron; the Syrian troops in Egypt wish to return to their country; the Egyptians are in arrears of pay, and are sighing for their homes. From 12 to 15,000 Egyptian soldiers now at Constantinople, are being clothed, paid, and organized, under the eyes of the Sultan; let his Highness reflect on his danger, should they be thrown into Egypt, with a promise of being disbanded, together with the rest of the army, on the overthrow of his Highness.

He may rely upon it, Egypt is not invulnerable; he may rely upon it, Alexandria itself may be made to share the fate of Acre; and his Highness, who has now an opportunity of founding a dynasty, may sink into a simple Pasha.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Inclosure 3 in No. 87.

Boghos Bey to Commodore Napier.

M. le Commodore, *Alexandrie, le 23 Novembre, 1840.*

J'AI reçu avec beaucoup de plaisir la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser par l'intermédiaire de mon ancien ami M. le Capitaine Maunsell, et je me suis empressé d'en mettre la traduction sous les yeux du Vice-Roi mon maître.

Son Altesse m'ordonne de vous faire connaître qu'elle est particulièrement sensible aux bons sentimens dont elle a trouvé l'expression dans votre lettre susdite datée le 22 courant.

Il me paraît impossible, M. le Commodore, que vous ajoutiez foi aux rapports malveillans du Contre-Amiral; et votre honorable caractère m'est

un sûr garanti du peu de crédit que doivent trouver auprès de vous les paroles d'un homme qui, lorsqu'il a déserté Constantinople, ne s'est pas fait faute de répandre sur la Sublime Porte les calomnies dont l'Egypte est aujourd'hui l'objet de sa part. A l'époque où les officiers de la flotte Ottomane obtinrent la faculté de quitter Alexandrie, ce même Contre-Amiral sollicita du Vice-Roi la permission de rester en Egypte.

En dernier lieu encore, il eut sans difficulté reçu de son Altesse l'autorisation de se retirer, mais il a préféré la désertion à une démarche franche et honorable, parcequ'il a cru voir dans la désertion un moyen de se rétablir. Il suffit de connaître la conduite de cet officier pour apprécier à leur juste valeur des propos que je ne crois pas même devoir réfuter.

Les ordres de son Altesse ont déjà prévenu vos intentions relativement à la mise en liberté des Chefs Druses. Depuis longtemps, plusieurs de ces Chefs avaient dû quitter la Syrie et s'étaient fixés au Caire; à la nouvelle des derniers événemens ils sont venus de leur propre mouvement réclamer de son Altesse la permission de se rendre au milieu de leurs compatriotes, pour y agir dans l'intérêt de la cause Egyptienne, et il y a une dizaine de jours qu'ils ont pris la route de la Syrie. C'est à leur sollicitation que les Chefs Druses qui avaient été précédemment exilés en Nubie, ont également été autorisés à rentrer dans leurs foyers, et que l'ordre de leur retour a déjà été expédié. La réintégration de ces divers personnages dans leur patrie étant déjà pour ainsi dire un fait accompli, vos bonnes dispositions à leur égard se trouvent réalisées sans qu'il soit besoin de recourir à un échange.

Il était déjà venu à notre connaissance que l'intention des Grandes Puissances était de laisser à son Altesse le gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte, et sur ce point le Vice-Roi attend une communication officielle. Son Altesse n'est pas moins reconnaissante de la proposition contenue dans votre lettre, car elle y voit une manifestation personnelle de vos amicales et conciliantes dispositions. Dans aucun cas son Altesse n'a prétendu se mettre en opposition avec les volontés des Grandes Puissances de l'Europe. Vous n'ignorez pas, M. le Commodore, qu'elle s'était déjà soumise aux dispositions du Traité qui lui conduit héréditairement l'administration de l'Egypte. Son Altesse s'était seulement réservé de solliciter de la Sublime Porte la faculté de joindre à cette première concession le gouvernement viager de la Syrie, et cela parceque le Vice-Roi avait la conviction que, la Syrie entre ses mains pouvait encore offrir de grandes ressources à l'Empire Ottoman. Au lieu de répondre à cette demande on en est venu à des hostilités. Vous jugerez dans votre impartialité, M. le Commodore, si les torts ont été du côté du Vice-Roi. Son Altesse a la persuasion du contraire, et reste convaincue que les Grandes Puissances lui rendront justice.

Pour ce qui concerne la restitution de la flotte Ottomane et l'évacuation de la Syrie, je m'empresse de répondre sur ces deux points.—Il n'a jamais été dans les intentions de son Altesse de retenir la flotte de son souverain, et elle n'a cessé de s'exprimer dans ce sens du jour même que les circonstances ont amené l'escadre du Grand Seigneur à Alexandrie.

Il y a plus; lorsque Samy Bey a été envoyé en mission auprès de la Sublime Porte, il a offert au nom de son Altesse, la restitution de la flotte, qui était sur le point de mettre à la voile pour retourner à Constantinople, lorsque les hostilités commencées en Syrie sont venues ajourner l'exécution des ordres du Vice-Roi. Quant à l'évacuation de la Syrie, son Altesse avait cru être en droit d'attendre de nouveaux ordres de la Sublime Porte. Vous savez, M. le Commodore, comment il a été répondu à la demande du Vice-Roi, qui, dès-lors, a cru devoir recourir à la médiation officieuse de la France, manifestant ainsi son intention d'entrer dans les voies de conciliation, et son désir de voir mettre un terme à un état de choses que son Altesse a la conscience de n'avoir pas provoqué.

Pour le moment, les relations directes entre le Vice-Roi et le Général-en-chef de l'armée Egyptienne en Syrie sont suspendues par suite de l'agitation qui règne dans ce pays; c'est dans le but seul de faire cesser les désordres et pour assurer les voies de correspondance entre l'armée et l'Egypte, que le Vice-Roi vient de diriger sur la frontière un corps de troupes dont la mission est le rétablissement des communications.

J'espère, M. le Commodore, que vous serez satisfait des explications que le Vice-Roi m'a ordonné de vous transmettre, et que vous reconnaîtrez

dans l'empressement que j'ai mis à répondre avec franchise à votre bienveillante communication une nouvelle preuve des dispositions pacifiques et conciliantes qui n'ont jamais cessé d'animer le Vice-Roi mon maître.

Je saisis, etc.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

Inclosure 4 in No. 87.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

*H.B.M. Ship "Powerful,"
Off Alexandria, November 24, 1840.*

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter, and am happy to find that the Emirs and Sheiks of Lebanon have been released, and if they are not all gone, I shall be glad to send them to Beyrout by sea. I have the honour of inclosing a copy of Lord Palmerston's letter* to Lord Ponsonby, by which your Excellency will observe, that the desire of the Allied Powers is to reinstate his Highness in the hereditary government of Egypt, provided he at once evacuates Syria, and gives up the Ottoman fleet.

It is of the utmost importance that my Government should be informed, by the packet about to leave Alexandria, of the intention of his Highness, in a clear and distinct manner; I have therefore to request your Excellency will at once inform me whether or not it is his Highness's intention to give immediate orders for the surrendering the Ottoman fleet, and the evacuation of Syria? If his Highness consults his own interests he will not hesitate a moment.

I shall give every assistance with the squadron, to prepare the Turkish fleet, and will permit any number of transports to proceed to Beyrout or Acre, to embark the army, who have now retired on Damascus, the intelligence of which I have this moment received from the Commander-in-chief.

I beg you will inform his Highness that if he does not at once decide, should any expedition be sent from Constantinople, I have no discretionary power, and must act against him according to the best of my abilities.

I observe with regret, by your letter, that more troops have already been sent into Syria, which I fear will be interpreted at Constantinople, into a determination of persisting in hostilities.

To avoid all unnecessary delay, I am now on board the steam boat, and shall be most happy to pay my respects to his Highness, should he wish to see me, and offer him any guarantee in my power. I beg, &c.,
(Signed) C. NAPIER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 87.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

*H.B.M. Ship, "Medea,"
Alexandria, November 25, 1840.*

Sir,

I BEG leave to inclose the letter of Lord Palmerston to Lord Ponsonby, which was by mistake not sent with my letter to your Excellency, yesterday.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER.

* No. 195. October 15, 1840.

Inclosure 6 in No. 87.

Boghos Bey to Commodore Napier.

M. le Commodore.

Alexandrie, le 24 Novembre, 1840.

J'AI mis sous les yeux du Vice-Roi mon maître la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire sous la date de ce jour.

Les Chefs Druses qui résidaient au Caire sont partis par terre pour la Syrie, ainsi que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous dire. Il n'est pas donc possible à son Altesse de profiter des moyens de transport que vous mettez à leur disposition pour hâter leur retour dans leur patrie.

La copie de la lettre de son Excellence Lord Palmerston à Lord Ponsonby n'était pas jointe à votre dépêche, ainsi que vous me l'annoncez.

Je crois cependant, M. le Commodore, avoir connaissance du contenu de cette lettre, et c'est sur cela même que je m'appuie pour considérer comme un fait non douteux le consentement de son Altesse à la restitution de la flotte Ottomane et à l'évacuation de la Syrie; aussi puis-je vous certifier au nom du Vice-Roi, que l'escadre sera rendue et la Syrie évacuée aussitôt que son Altesse aura reçu la garantie officielle et positive des avantages qui lui sont promis en retour de ses concessions.

D'un autre côté, M. le Commodore, vous n'ignorez pas que les dépêches venues de France par le dernier bateau à vapeur nous ont fait connaître que le Gouvernement Français étant, sur la demande du Vice-Roi, entré en négociation avec les Quatre Puissances, on s'attendait à ce qu'un arrangement définitif aurait lieu sous peu de jours. Dans cette conjoncture, ne pensez-vous pas, M. le Commodore, qu'il y aurait convenance à ne pas anticiper sur la décision que vont prendre les Grandes Puissances agissant de concert avec la Sublime Porte,—décision à laquelle le Vice-Roi s'engage de la manière la plus formelle à se soumettre sans délai.

Vous semblez craindre que l'envoi d'un corps de troupes sur les frontières de Syrie ne soit considéré à Constantinople comme une preuve de l'intention qu'aurait son Altesse de prolonger les hostilités dans ce pays; c'est pour vous rassurer complètement sur ce point que je vous réitère l'assurance positive que la colonne qui a été dirigée sur El Arish en dernier lieu, n'a pas d'autre objet, d'autre mission, que d'assurer les voies de communication.

Je vous réitère, etc.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

Inclosure 7 in No. 87.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

*H. M. steam ship "Medea,"
Alexandria, November 25, 1840.*

Sir,

I WISH your Excellency to acquaint me whether in informing me that the Druse Chiefs had been sent back to Lebanon, your Excellency means that all the Chiefs that were removed from Syria last July, have returned to their homes.

I observed to your Excellency in my letter of yesterday, that I had no direction to suspend hostilities by sea, unless his Highness would surrender the fleet, and give immediate orders for the evacuation of Syria, much less can I insure the discontinuance of military operations; on the contrary, I feel perfectly satisfied that operations will be carried on, until orders are given for its complete evacuation.

I am perfectly ignorant of the despatches brought by the last French steamer, nor have I any knowledge that the French Government has entered into negotiation with the Allied Powers.

I only know that the Allied Powers have recommended to the Porte,

to reinstate Mehemet Ali in the Government of Egypt, and render it hereditary in his family; and I know that nothing could afford so much pleasure to the British Government, as my writing by this packet to say that orders have been given for the evacuation of Syria, and the surrender of the fleet. I can enter into his Highness's feelings in hesitating to do this, until he officially receives the guarantee of the Allied Powers, but at the same time I must do my duty.

I am most anxious to avoid any further effusion of blood;—war and sickness have already done enough.

Therefore, if his Highness will give immediate orders for the evacuation of Syria, and send transports to receive the troops, and get the fleet ready for sea, I will not insist on their departure for Constantinople, until the Pasha is guaranteed in the hereditary government of Egypt, and on those conditions I will suspend hostilities.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Inclosure 8 in No. 87.

Boghos Bey to Commodore Napier.

M. le Commodore, *Alexandrie, le 25 Novembre, 1840.*

JE viens de recevoir la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date de ce jour, et je me suis empressé de la mettre sous les yeux du Vice-Roi mon maître. Conformément à ses ordres, je réponds aux différents paragraphes qu'elle renferme.

En ce qui touche d'abord les Chefs Druses, je vous répète, M. le Commodore, que ceux d'entr'eux qui habitent le Caire sont partis par terre pour la Syrie; quant à ceux qui se trouvent encore en Nubie, l'ordre pour assurer leur retour a déjà été expédié, ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous l'écrire, et je vous réitère l'assurance qu'au moment de leur arrivée en Egypte ils seront entièrement libres de se rendre dans leur patrie.

En ce qui concerne la flotte Ottomane, qui doit être mise en état de faire voile aussitôt que la décision des Puissances lui sera officiellement notifiée, son Altesse voit avec plaisir que vous adhérez à ses sentiments.

Son Altesse, partageant avec sincérité le désir que vous émettez d'arrêter l'effusion de sang, s'est décidée à mettre fin aux hostilités; mais comme vous n'ignorez pas que le transport par mer d'une armée qui entraîne une suite considérable, en matériel, en chevaux et équipages, offre de grandes difficultés, et qu'il est surtout urgent de mettre un terme aux malheurs de la guerre, le Vice-Roi est prêt à ordonner à son fils Ibrahim Pacha de concentrer ses troupes pour se replier avec elles sur l'Egypte,—disposition qui sera transmise au Général-en-chef par un officier Egyptien accompagné, si vous le jugez convenable, par un officier Anglais accrédité par vous.

Ibrahim Pacha se trouvera par ce moyen en mesure d'évacuer complètement la Syrie au moment que la décision des Puissances sera officiellement connue.

J'ai l'honneur, etc.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

Inclosure 9 in No. 87.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

Sir, *H. M. steam ship "Medea,"
Alexandria, November 26, 1840.*

IN the last paragraph of your letter of yesterday's date, you say that the Pasha will give orders to concentrate the Egyptian army in Syria, in

order that they may evacuate the country, when the decision of the Powers is officially known.

I beg to observe to your Excellency that the Egyptian troops are already concentrated, and my demand is, that the order should be given for the *immediate* evacuation; and I shall place a steamer at your Excellency's disposal to convey the officer whom the Pasha sends, together with one I shall appoint, to Beyrout, with the Pasha's despatches to his son Ibrahim Pasha.

Nothing short of this will either meet the Commander-in-chief's approbation, or put an end to hostilities.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

* Inclosure 10 in No. 87.

Boghos Bey to Commodore Napier.

M. le Commodore, *Alexandrie, le 26 Novembre, 1840.*

JE réponds à la dernière lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser, et que j'ai soumise au Vice-Roi mon maître.

Son Altesse consent à réarmer la flotte de la Sublime Porte, à l'approvisionnement, en un mot, à la mettre en état de faire voile au premier moment pour Constantinople, sous la condition expresse, et que vous-même avez posée, que la dite escadre restera dans notre port jusqu'à la notification officielle des Puissances qui assurent à son Altesse le gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte.

En outre, Monsieur, sur la demande formelle que vous en avez faite au Vice-Roi, son Altesse enverra à Beyrouth, et cela au plus prochain jour, un officier de son palais (déjà nommé) porteur des ordres nécessaires à l'évacuation de la Syrie par Ibrahim Pacha son fils et toute son armée.

Cet envoyé prendra passage à bord du bateau à vapeur que vous avez mis à la disposition de son Altesse, et sera accompagné par un officier Anglais jusqu'à destination et retour.

Ceci est écrit avec une vive gratitude de vos soins et de votre délicatesse dans la solution de cet épineux différend. Et au nom de son Altesse,

Je suis, etc.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

No. 88.

John Barrow, Esq. to Lord Leveson.

My Lord, *Admiralty, December 16, 1840.*

WITH reference to my letter to your Lordship of the 14th instant, transmitting copies of the correspondence which had taken place between Commodore Sir Charles Napier and the Egyptian Government, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a further letter from the Commodore and its inclosures, containing a copy of the Convention, signed by himself and the Minister of Mehemet Ali.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

* This letter is printed from the "Journal des Debats," of the 15th of December, 1840, a copy not having been received from Commodore Napier.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

*Commodore Napier to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.**Her Majesty's Steam-vessel "Medea,"
Alexandria, November 28, 1840.*

Sir,

IN my letter by the "Oriental," I sent the copies of the correspondence that has taken place between the Egyptian Government and myself. I also acquainted you that the terms had been agreed to.

I have now the honour of inclosing a copy of the Convention I have signed, which I trust will meet their Lordships' approbation. The whole of the correspondence has been also sent to the Commander-in-Chief; and the Egyptian officer, with the order to Ibrahim Pasha, has also proceeded to join him.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

P.S.—I beg to observe that I am much indebted to the decision of Captain Maunsell of the "Rodney," in opening a direct communication with the Pasha. It had been usual to send in letters by the French boat, but Captain Maunsell very properly landed at the palace, and sent right up to the Pasha at once.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

CONVENTION between Commodore Napier, commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces before Alexandria, on the one part, and His Excellency Boghos Joussouf Bey, specially authorized by His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt, on the other part; signed at Alexandria, the 27th November, 1840.

ART. I.

Le Commodore Napier, en sa qualité susdite, ayant porté à la connaissance de son Altesse Méhémet Ali, que les Puissances Alliées avaient recommandé à la Sublime Porte de le réintégrer dans le gouvernement héréditaire de l'Égypte, et son Altesse voyant dans cette communication une circonstance favorable pour mettre un terme aux calamités de la guerre, elle s'engage à ordonner à son fils Ibrahim Pacha de procéder à l'évacuation immédiate de la Syrie. Son Altesse s'engage, en outre, à restituer la flotte Ottomane aussitôt qu'elle aura reçu la notification officielle que la Sublime Porte lui accorde le gouvernement héréditaire de l'Égypte, laquelle concession est et demeure garantie par les Puissances.

ART. II.

Le Commodore Napier mettra à la disposition du Gouvernement Égyptien un bateau à vapeur pour conduire en Syrie l'officier désigné par son Altesse pour porter au Général-en-chef de l'armée Égyptienne l'ordre d'évacuer la Syrie. Le Commandant-en-chef des forces Britanniques, Sir R. Stopford, nommera de son côté un officier pour veiller à l'exécution de cette mesure.

ART. III.

En considération de ce qui précède, le Commodore Napier s'engage à suspendre de la part des forces Britanniques les hostilités contre Alexandrie ou toute autre portion du territoire Égyptien. Il autorisera en même temps la libre navigation des bâtimens destinés au transport des blessés, des invalides ou de toute autre portion de l'armée Égyptienne, que le Gouvernement de l'Égypte désirerait faire rentrer dans ce pays par la voie de mer.

ART. IV.

Il est bien entendu que l'armée Égyptienne aura la faculté de se retirer de la Syrie avec son artillerie, ses armes, ses chevaux, munitions, bagages, et en général tout ce qui constitue le matériel de l'armée.

Fait à double, dont un original pour chaque Partie Contractante.

(Signé)

CH. NAPIER, *Commodore.*
BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

Sir,

H.M.S. "Medea," November 27, 1840.

IN the Convention entered into by your Excellency and myself, Mehemet Ali is styled his Highness the Viceroy of Egypt; as this does not alter the spirit of the Convention, I did not hesitate to sign it, but you must clearly understand that I cannot acknowledge that title until Mehemet Ali is restored by the Porte.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

No. 89.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 1, 1840.

ACCOUNTS of the occupation of St. Jean d'Acre were received by Count Nesselrode on the 23rd ultimo. His Excellency immediately informed me of this glorious success, and read to me on the following day his reports from the Levant.

His congratulations on the fresh laurels gained by the British Navy were most enthusiastic; and his Excellency assured me that the energy and promptitude with which the operations of the Allied Forces had been conducted had given the highest satisfaction to the Emperor. This language was echoed by all the Court for several days, and the Imperial Government are, I believe, sincerely rejoiced at the favourable turn which the Eastern Question is assuming, by which Russia may be saved the expense of participating in the operations resulting from the Convention of July.

The bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre was announced on Tuesday last in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg;" and your Lordship may judge, from the inclosed extract, of the impression received at Court, and of the feelings on this subject, which the Government wished to convey.

In the military and naval circles the satisfaction has not been carried to the same extent; some jealousy has been excited, and the hopes which they had vainly cherished of the British Navy being in a declining state, have suddenly vanished before this incontestable proof of its unimpaired strength and efficiency.

The late events on the coast of Syria cannot fail to have the most beneficial results on our relations with this country; they will inspire confidence in our strength, command respect for our name, and prove to Russia what can be effected by British arms and enterprise, in whatever quarter of the globe they are directed.

Count Nesselrode has informed me that he despatches M. de Berg, Secretary to the Russian Embassy in London, to-night, who is the bearer of the second class of the order of St. George, which the Emperor forwards for Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, as a proof of His Imperial Majesty's satisfaction with the manner in which he has conducted the operations confided to him,

Y 3

trusting that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to permit him to wear it.

The third class of the same distinguished order is forwarded for Captain Napier, whose conduct and gallantry have excited the greatest admiration in this country.

His Imperial Majesty has sent the Order of St. Andrew to the Archduke Frederick.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Extract from the "St. Petersburg Journal," respecting the capture of St. Jean d'Acre.

POST-SCRIPTUM.

PRISE DE SAINT JEAN D'ACRE.

UNE estafette arrivée dans la soirée de Constantinople a apporté des dépêches de cette capitale du 11 Novembre, nouveau style, et de Beyrouth, du 6 Novembre. On venait d'y recevoir l'importante nouvelle de la prise de Saint Jean d'Acre, qui a eu lieu le 4 Novembre, après un bombardement de douze heures, pendant lequel quarante mille projectiles ont été lancés dans la forteresse. L'explosion d'un magasin à poudre ayant fait éprouver des pertes considérables à la garnison, qui consistait en 6,500 hommes de troupes Egyptiennes, leurs débris ont évacué la place et se sont sauvés dans la direction de Jaffa, poursuivis par les Arabes de Naplouse, qui venaient de prendre à leur tour les armes en faveur du Sultan. L'Archiduc Frédéric d'Autriche a pris une grande part à ce beau fait d'armes. Son Altesse Impériale a le premier planté le drapeau du Sultan sur les murs de Saint Jean d'Acre.

No. 90.

Mr. Bloomfield to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 113.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 1, 1840.

COUNT NESSELRODE has received despatches from London and Constantinople to the 17th ultimo.

I called on his Excellency yesterday, and he allowed me to read Baron Brunnow's last reports, giving a detailed account of the late meeting of the Plenipotentiaries, and inclosing your Lordship's letters to the Lords of the Admiralty of the 14th ultimo.

Count Nesselrode said that he entirely approved of the plan, suggested by Baron Brunnow, of making a direct communication at Alexandria, through one of the officers of Her Majesty's Fleet, and that in consequence of our success at St. Jean d'Acre, and the instructions which he was informed were to be sent by M. Guizot to M. Cochelet, he hoped Mehemet Ali would see the folly of attempting to offer further resistance to the fulfilment of the Convention of July, and that he would thus facilitate the termination of the question, by throwing himself on the mediation of the Allies with the Porte.

The Russian Government highly applaud this proposed communication, as it may have the effect of preventing France from being mixed up with the transactions in their present stage, and of postponing her chance of admission into the negotiations.

Count Nesselrode told me that he had no fresh instructions to send to London on the subject, but that he should convey the Emperor's entire approbation to Baron Brunnow of his conduct and language, and express his confidence in the wisdom of Her Majesty's Government to adopt from time to time any measures which may become advisable.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. A. D. BLOOMFIELD.

No. 91.

Viscount Palmerston to the Lords of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, December 15, 1840.

I HAVE had under my consideration the letter of your Lordships' Secretary of yesterday's date, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Commodore Napier, dated the 26th of November, with copies of that officer's correspondence with Boghos Bey; and also the further despatch from Commodore Napier of the 28th of November, which has been communicated to me by your Lordships this day, inclosing the Articles of Agreement signed by Commodore Napier and Boghos Bey, on the 27th of November.

I have to request your Lordships to convey to Commodore Napier the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the steps taken by him on this occasion, though without any instructions to that effect, and upon his own responsibility, to carry into execution the arrangements contemplated by the Treaty of the 15th of July, and to put an end to the contest in the Levant.

But the instruction given by your Lordships to Sir Robert Stopford in pursuance of my letter of the 14th of November, will have reached Sir Robert Stopford a few days after he received from Commodore Napier a report of the result of his negotiation at Alexandria; and it is uncertain whether Sir Robert Stopford will have considered the instruction of the 14th of November as superseding Commodore Napier's arrangement, or whether he will have looked upon Commodore Napier's arrangement as superseding that instruction.

In this state of things, Her Majesty's Government must postpone a final communication with respect to the arrangement made by Commodore Napier, till they learn, as they probably will in a few days' time, what course Sir Robert Stopford took upon the receipt of the instruction of the 14th of November. But there is one part of the Articles signed by Commodore Napier and Boghos Bey, upon which it is necessary that an instruction should immediately be sent to Sir Robert Stopford.

In the First Article, Boghos Bey, on the part of Mehemet Ali, takes two engagements: the one is to order the Egyptian troops to evacuate Syria; the other is to restore the Turkish fleet. The first engagement was to be fulfilled immediately, and was to be conditional only upon the promise of Commodore Napier that he would, in his capacity of Commander of the British fleet before Alexandria, suspend hostilities against Alexandria, and every other part of the Egyptian territory. The other engagement was eventual, and was to be fulfilled as soon as Mehemet Ali should have received an official notification that the Porte grants him the hereditary Government of Egypt, and that this concession is, and shall continue to be, under the guarantee of the Four Powers. Now it is necessary that Sir Robert Stopford should lose no time in making known to Mehemet Ali that this last demand of his, that the Four Powers should guarantee to him the grant of the hereditary Government of Egypt, if that grant should be made to him by the Sultan, cannot be complied with.

In the first place, as far as Great Britain is concerned, it would be inconsistent with the principles which guide the conduct of the British Government to guarantee to a subject a grant of administrative authority made to him by his Sovereign within the dominions of that Sovereign; and, in the next place, as regards the Four Powers, one of the main objects which those Powers had in view in concluding the Treaty of the 15th of July, was to uphold and secure the independence of the Sultan's Throne. But it is obvious that such a standing interference by the Four Powers in the internal affairs of the Turkish Empire, as would be implied by the guarantee demanded by Mehemet Ali, would be inconsistent with that independence, and would, as far as the province of Egypt is concerned, tend essentially to impair it. For these reasons, neither Great Britain singly nor the Four Powers jointly, can give the guarantee demanded by Mehemet Ali.

That which the Four Powers will do, is to recommend to the Porte to make the concession specified in the communication which Sir Robert Stopford has been instructed to convey to Mehemet Ali.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 270.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 17, 1840.

HER Majesty's Government have received from Commodore Napier a copy of the Articles of Agreement concluded between him and Boghos Bey, on the 27th of November, by which Boghos Bey engaged, on the part of Mehemet Ali, that the Egyptian troops should immediately evacuate Syria, on condition that Commodore Napier should suspend hostilities against Egypt, and that the Turkish fleet should be given up by Mehemet Ali, as soon as Mehemet Ali should be informed from Constantinople, that the Sultan had granted him the hereditary Government of Egypt, and provided that grant were guaranteed to Mehemet Ali by the Four Powers.

As these Articles of Agreement will have reached Sir Robert Stopford much about the same time as the instruction sent to him by the Lords of the Admiralty on the 14th of November, it is doubtful which of the two Sir Robert may have determined to act upon; and whether he will have considered the instruction of the 14th of November as superseding the Articles of Agreement, or the Articles of Agreement as superseding the instruction.

If Sir Robert Stopford has taken the first course, and has sent a communication to Mehemet Ali, in pursuance of the instruction of the 14th of November, there can be no doubt that Mehemet Ali will have consented to do what was required of him by that instruction; and in that case Sir Robert Stopford will have transmitted Mehemet Ali's acquiescence to Constantinople; and then your Excellency and your Colleagues will, of course, have given to the Porte the advice specified in my despatch of the 15th of October, No. 195, to your Excellency; and your Excellency will before this have sent off to this office a report of the decision of the Porte, which has, no doubt, been in conformity with the advice so given.

But if Sir Robert Stopford has taken the second course, and has looked upon the Articles of Agreement of the 27th of November as superseding the instruction of the 14th of November, he will in that case have sent those Articles of Agreement to Constantinople, as being virtually equivalent to the written engagement required from Mehemet Ali by the instruction of the 14th of November.

In that case, however, a doubt may have been felt by your Excellency and your Colleagues what steps you should take in pursuance of the instructions contained in my despatch of the 15th of October, and in the corresponding instructions sent from Vienna, Petersburg, and Berlin; because those instructions, modified by the subsequent letter to the Admiralty of November 14, contemplated the unconditional submission of Mehemet Ali to the Sultan, as a preliminary to the advice to be given to the Porte to reinstate Mehemet Ali in the Government of Egypt; and, on the contrary, Mehemet Ali, in the demands which he sets forth in the first Article of the Agreement, signed on the 27th of November, engages to restore the fleet only on two conditions,—the one being, that the Sultan should grant him hereditary tenure in the Government of Egypt,—and the other being, that such grant on the part of the Sultan should be placed under the guarantee of the Four Powers.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that the fact, that Mehemet Ali attached the first of these conditions to his restoration of the fleet, need not prevent the Porte from making to him that concession. For, in fact, those Articles of Agreement were substantially a complete surrender on the part of Mehemet Ali; and he was led to suppose, that in asking for hereditary tenure, he was only asking that which the Porte was willing to give. But the second condition, namely, the guarantee of the Four Powers, is one which cannot be complied with; and your Excellency should, on this point, give to the Porte the same explanations which Sir Robert Stopford has been instructed, in pursuance of my letter to the Admiralty of the 15th instant, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 269, to give to Mehemet Ali.

It has been reported, but upon what authority is not known, that the Porte was, towards the end of November, but before it had heard of the submission of Mehemet Ali, disinclined to revoke the decree which had deprived him of the Government of Egypt. It is not unnatural that such a feeling should have existed at that time in the mind of the Turkish Government, but Her Majesty's Government hope that subsequent events, and the unanimous advice of the Four Powers, will have removed these objections on the part of the Porte, and will have led the Porte to accept the settlement effected by Commodore Napier's arrangement, or by the subsequent more ample submission of Mehemet Ali.

It would indeed be necessary, that, in reinstating Mehemet Ali in the Pashalic of Egypt, care should be taken to make such arrangements as would protect the people of Egypt from a continuance of the tyrannical oppression by which they have of late years been crushed, and should secure the Sultan against a renewal of those hostilities which have compelled him to have recourse to the aid of his Allies. But the means of effecting all these purposes may be found in the stipulations of the Treaty of the 15th of July, without removing Mehemet Ali from his Pashalic. The Treaty says, that all the laws of the Turkish Empire, and all the Treaties of the Porte, shall apply to Egypt, just as much as to any other province of the Sultan's dominions; and that the land and sea forces which may be maintained by the Pasha of Egypt, shall be part of the forces of the Empire, and be kept up for the service of the State.

Under these stipulations the Sultan will of course be able, by an exercise of his legislative authority, to establish unity of flag, and of military and naval uniform, throughout all his provinces; to limit the number of troops which each province shall, according to its population, maintain; to regulate the mode of enforcing the conscription, so as to protect the people from undue burthens and oppressive levies; to fix the number and class of ships of war which shall belong to the several naval ports of his dominions; to fix the manner in which commissions in the army and navy shall be granted in his name, and by his authority; to determine that a single monetary system shall prevail throughout all his dominions; and that there shall be but one mint. The Treaty specifies, that none but the legal imposts shall be levied in Egypt, which will secure the people from undue exactions; and the execution of the Convention of 1838, by which all monopolies are to be abolished, will at once free the industry of the people of Egypt from those oppressive restrictions which have hitherto kept the great mass of the population in the most abject poverty, and which have gradually thrown out of cultivation extensive tracts of land that were formerly tilled and productive.

By such means it seems to Her Majesty's Government, that future security might be afforded both to the Sultan and to his Egyptian subjects against the disposition of Mehemet Ali again to rebel against his Sovereign, and to oppress the people of the province he would have to govern.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 358.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 18, 1840.

I INCLOSE for your Excellency's information, and for communication to M. Guizot, a copy of a letter which I addressed, on the 15th instant, to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, signifying to their Lordships the Queen's commands as to further instructions to be addressed to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 94.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 371.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 18, 1840.

I RECEIVED yesterday your despatch No. 353, inclosing Commodore Napier's despatch to your Lordship of the 26th of November, and his correspondence with Boghos Bey.

I read with surprise, in the Commodore's despatch, that a French steamer had arrived three days before at Alexandria with a Negotiator, who had joined with the other French Agents already established there, in endeavours to prevent the success of his negotiation with Mehemet Ali. This statement is so at variance with M. Guizot's repeated assurances that he had directed M. Cochelet to advise Mehemet Ali to accede to the proposal which Admiral Sir Robert Stopford was instructed to make to the Pasha, that I could not but conclude that either it must have reference to some person whose mission was unknown to M. Guizot, or that it was founded upon erroneous information furnished by Boghos Bey, or some other Egyptian Agent. I this day, in conversation with M. Guizot, alluded to this new Negotiator, who must have been sent to Alexandria since M. Thiers quitted office, and I must say that the unhesitating and unembarrassed manner in which he denied that he had sent any Agent whatever to Egypt, and the repetition of what he had before said to me in regard to the recall of Count Walewski, and his instructions to M. Cochelet, fully confirmed my previous impressions.

I have an indistinct recollection of having heard at the time of the change of Ministry, that Marshal Soult proposed sending an officer to Egypt, and also that a French officer of the name of Beaufort, on whose representations of the force and efficiency of Ibrahim Pasha's army M. Thiers placed great reliance, was to return to the Levant. I will not fail to make further inquiries on the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 95.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 368.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1840.

WITH reference to your despatch, No. 371, of the 18th instant, in which your Excellency reports that M. Guizot denies having sent any Agent whatever to Alexandria, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I read to Baron de Bourqueney, last week, Commodore Napier's letter, and drew his attention to that passage which states the arrival of a new French Negotiator, who, in conjunction with M. Cochelet and Count Walewski, had endeavoured to prevent the arrangement which Commodore Napier was trying to effect; and Baron de Bourqueney said thereupon that he could not believe the latter part of the statement, because the person to whom Commodore Napier alluded, as having recently arrived, must have been M. de Beaufort, who, Baron de Bourqueney said, had been sent to Alexandria by M. Guizot immediately on his coming into office. Baron de Bourqueney further said that he could not think that M. de Beaufort had acted in a manner so contrary to M. Guizot's intentions.

It may be that Baron de Bourqueney was mistaken as to the time when M. de Beaufort was sent from Paris, and that M. de Beaufort was sent off by M. Thiers, and not by M. Guizot; but it would be desirable that your Excellency should ascertain when M. de Beaufort went, and by whom he was sent.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 96.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 372.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 21, 1840.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatches to No. 360 inclusive.

I this morning communicated to M. Guizot your Lordship's letter of the 15th ultimo to the Commissioners of the Admiralty, signifying to their Lordships the Queen's commands as to further instructions to be addressed to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford. The refusal of Her Majesty's Government to ratify that part of the Convention concluded between Commodore Napier and Boghos Bey, which stipulates for the guarantee by the Allied Powers of the hereditary Government of Egypt, was expected by the French Minister, and he appears to have been satisfied at finding his expectations confirmed by my communication to him of your Lordship's letter. He seemed not to apprehend that the want of that guarantee would retard the execution of the other arrangements of the Treaty, and expressed his persuasion that if the Sultan should be so ill-advised as to refuse to reinstate Mehemet Ali in the Government of Egypt, the Allied Powers would not aid the Turkish forces in expelling the Pasha from that pashalic.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 97.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord William Russell.

(No. 121.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1840.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 60, of the 25th ultimo, I have to state to your Lordship, that I have been informed, from pretty good authority, that the overture made by Baron Bulow to Baron de Bourqueney on Baron Bulow's first return to England this autumn, and to which my despatch No. 98 to your Lordship related, was not a step taken rashly by Baron Bulow upon his own impulse and responsibility, but was the consequence of instructions given to Baron Bulow by Baron Werther, at the suggestion of M. Bresson.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 98.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 197. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Vienna, December 15, 1840.

M. DE PONTOIS is reported by the Internuncio to have made in the latter days of November a hopeless and absurd attempt to induce the Porte to leave Candia to Mehemet Ali. This step on the part of M. de Pontois appears to have been taken in connection with advices received by him from Alexandria, in support of which opinion I inclose copy of Mehemet Ali's letter of the 11th of November to Louis Philippe, drawn up by M. Walewski, and evidently destined for communication to the Chambers, in order to serve the purposes of M. Thiers.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) BEAUVALE.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Mehemet Ali to the King of the French.

Sire,

JE sens le besoin d'exprimer à votre Majesté la reconnaissance dont je suis pénétré. Depuis longtemps le Gouvernement du Roi m'a témoigné de l'intérêt. Aujourd'hui votre Majesté met le comble à ses bontés pour moi en déclarant aux Puissances qu'elle considère mon existence politique comme indispensable à l'équilibre Européen. Cette nouvelle marque si signalée de l'intérêt que daigne me porter votre Majesté, m'impose des devoirs que je saurai remplir; et d'abord celui d'exprimer clairement et succinctement au Roi de la France les motifs de ma conduite.

Dans tous les temps, le vœu le plus sincère de mon cœur a été pour la prospérité de l'Empire Ottoman. Je désirais le voir heureux, tranquille, et puissant; mon ambition la plus grande a toujours été de lui venir en aide contre ses ennemis et de sacrifier pour sa défense tout ce que j'ai acquis péniblement par de longs travaux. Et je le dirai ici avec franchise, ce qui m'a toujours porté vers la France, ce qui m'a toujours engagé à me conformer à ses conseils, c'est que je savais que de tous les Gouvernemens de l'Europe c'était celui qui voulait le plus de bien, et de la manière la plus désintéressée, à l'Empire Ottoman.

Je prie votre Majesté de croire que c'est l'amour de mon pays qui a toujours dirigé ma conduite.

Ainsi après bien des efforts, bien des contrariétés, j'étais parvenu à faire régner l'ordre en Syrie, à faire succéder la paix et la tranquillité à l'anarchie et au désordre. Et si j'ai insisté si vivement pour que cette province restât sous mon gouvernement, c'est parceque j'avais la conviction que si elle m'était enlevée, tous les maux que j'en avais extirpés retomberaient de nouveau sur elle. Entre mes mains la Syrie était un élément de force qui me mettait à même de porter des secours efficaces au Sultan et à la Turquie; entre les mains de la Porte, j'ose le dire, la Syrie était vouée à l'anarchie, au désordre, à la guerre civile. Mais aujourd'hui ce que je craignais s'est en partie réalisé; l'influence étrangère est venue en aide aux élémens de discorde et d'insurrection: une première tentative avait été impuissante pour faire soulever les populations; cette fois-ci les efforts de ceux qui ont cru travailler pour l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, en excitant à la révolte une de ses provinces, ont réussi, non à insurger tout le pays, mais à armer les unes contre les autres les populations, et à amener la guerre civile. Les motifs d'intérêt général qui me portaient à désirer conserver la Syrie sous mon gouvernement n'existent donc plus. Il reste mes intérêts personnels et ceux de ma famille; ceux-là je suis prêt à les sacrifier à la paix du monde. C'est à la haute sagesse du Roi des Français que je m'adresse; je mets mon sort entre ses mains, elle réglera à sa volonté les arrangemens qui doivent terminer le différend.

Si votre Majesté le juge convenable je suis prêt à me contenter en Syrie du Pachalic d'Acre. Ce pays a résisté à tous les efforts que l'on a tenté pour le soulever contre moi. Votre Majesté trouvera juste peut-être de me faire laisser l'île de Candie, qui jouit depuis longtemps sous mon gouvernement d'une prospérité inaltérable.

Mais si au contraire les hautes lumières de votre Majesté la portent à croire que le moment des concessions est passé, et que celui d'une résistance opiniâtre est arrivé, je suis prêt à combattre jusqu'à mon dernier soupir, et mes enfans aussi. Mon armée de Syrie est encore considérable; Damas, Aleppo, toutes les principales villes sont en mon pouvoir; mon armée de la Hedjas est en marche, une partie est déjà au Caire, le reste y sera sous peu. Des Chéïks influens du Liban partent pour la montagne et me répondent de ramener les Druses et les Maronites à la soumission. J'ai quarante bâtimens prêts à prendre la mer au premier signal de votre Majesté. J'espère donc que personne ne se méprendra sur les véritables motifs qui m'inspirent la démarche que je fais aujourd'hui. Personne ne croira que c'est la peur qui me fait agir; j'ai pour moi toute ma vie pour répondre à une pareille accusation. Il y a quinze jours encore quand toute mon existence était menacée; on aurait pu voir de la faiblesse dans ma conduite si j'avais cédé, mais aujourd'hui que mon existence politique est sauvée par la déclaration de la France, je ne risque que peu de

choses à prolonger la guerre. Non, ce ne sont pas les forces qu'on déploient contre moi qui m'effrayent; ce qui m'effraye c'est d'être cause d'une guerre générale, c'est d'entraîner la France, à qui je dois tant, dans une guerre qui n'aurait d'autre but que mes intérêts personnels. Dans cette circonstance je viens m'adresser à votre Majesté; la reconnaissance m'en faisait un devoir, et d'ailleurs j'ai pour le Roi des Français l'admiration la confiance que sa sagesse et ses lumières inspirent au monde. Je viens mettre mon sort entre ses mains. Quelle que soit la décision du Roi, je l'accepterai avec reconnaissance, pourvu que votre Majesté veuille bien prendre part au Traité qui interviendra entre les Grandes Puissances pour régler ma destinée.

Enfin, quoi qu'il arrive, je prie le Roi de me permettre de lui dire que ma reconnaissance pour lui et la France sera éternelle dans mon cœur, que je la léguerais à mes enfans et à mes petits enfans comme un devoir sacré.

Je voulais envoyer un de mes principaux officiers porter cette lettre au pied du trône de votre Majesté, mais la difficulté et la longueur de la quarantaine m'ont déterminé à la remettre au Comte Walewsky, qui la fera parvenir à votre Majesté.

No. 99.

Rechid Pasha to Chekib Effendi.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Le 1 Cheval, 1256. (November 26, 1840.)

PAR votre dépêche du 1 Ramazan, vous m'informez que dans un entretien que vous avez eu avec son Excellence M. le Vicomte Palmerston, ce Ministre vous a dit que, d'après les nouvelles qu'il avait reçues de Constantinople, le Gouvernement Ottoman semblerait disposé, pour ménager la France, et empêcher une guerre en Europe, à demander la médiation de cette Puissance pour faire évacuer la Syrie aux troupes Egyptiennes, en réhabilitant Méhémet Ali dans la qualité de Pacha avec l'hérédité de l'Egypte. Le principal Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères a ajouté, que pour ce qui regarde la réhabilitation de Méhémet Ali, son Gouvernement y était également disposé, et que des instructions avaient été transmises à ce sujet à M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople; mais qu'il différait d'opinion en ce qui avait trait à la demande de la médiation de la France, qu'il considérait comme inadmissible par les Cours Alliées. Vous m'avez informé, en même temps, que sa Seigneurie vous avait conseillé d'écrire à votre Ambassadeur à Paris, Nouri Effendi, pour l'engager à suspendre toute démarche de ce genre qui pourrait lui avoir été prescrite auprès du Gouvernement Français.

Cette communication, M. l'Ambassadeur, m'a vivement peiné, car je dois en inférer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique suppose la possibilité, de la part du nôtre, de faire, dans la Question Egyptienne, des démarches qu'il lui laisse ignorer et d'avoir des vues opposées aux siennes. Non seulement la Sublime Porte n'a jamais demandé la médiation de la France, non seulement elle n'a jamais autorisé Nouri Effendi à faire au Cabinet Français la moindre ouverture ni la moindre insinuation de ce genre, mais elle n'en a même jamais eu l'intention, et jamais je n'en ai rien dit ni officiellement ni confidentiellement à qui que ce fut, qui pût faire soupçonner une pareille intention. C'est pourquoi je ne comprends pas comment son Excellence le principal Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères a pu recevoir l'information dont vous me parlez.

Si je dois me livrer aux conjectures pour me l'expliquer, voici ce que j'en pense.

Il y a un mois et demi environ, j'ai cru convenable, pour me conformer à l'exemple des autres Cours Alliées, d'inviter Nouri Effendi à exprimer au Cabinet Français nos regrets sur son isolement. Ce fut là la seule démarche faite par la Sublime Porte auprès de ce Cabinet relativement aux affaires d'Egypte; je ne dirai pas après, mais même avant la Convention de Londres, depuis que je suis de retour à Constantinople; et je n'ai pas manqué d'en informer immédiatement les quatre Représentans ici, qui l'ont tous approuvé.

Le Cabinet Français aurait-il interprété cette démarche dans un sens à faire croire que nous avons voulu demander sa médiation? C'est ce que j'ignore, mais en tout cas ce que je viens d'exposer plus haut est la vérité toute pure.

Quant à la réhabilitation de Méhémet Ali en Egypte, je n'ai non plus jamais laissé entrevoir, soit à ce Cabinet soit à son Ambassadeur ici, aucune opinion, aucune intention à ce sujet, et je dirai même que je n'ai jamais été sondé là-dessus. C'est seulement dans mes communications confidentielles avec les quatre Représentans Alliés que j'ai parlé, et par manière de conversation, de la possibilité d'obtenir de Sa Majesté le Sultan la réhabilitation de Méhémet Ali en Egypte, si leurs Cours la désiraient comme un moyen d'empêcher la guerre en Europe.

Remarquez au surplus, M. l'Ambassadeur, que même avec les Représentans sus-mentionnés je n'ai pu m'occuper de cette réhabilitation que comme d'une simple possibilité, puisque, n'ayant jamais été dans le cas de prendre les ordres de Sa Majesté sur ce point, il ne m'était pas donné, comme il ne m'est pas donné même à l'heure qu'il est, d'énoncer à ce sujet une opinion formelle. Mais je dirai de plus, qu'en me permettant d'énoncer cette possibilité même, je n'ai eu en vue que de donner une nouvelle preuve du désir de la Sublime Porte de déférer au vœu de ses Alliés, dont la destitution de Méhémet Ali paraissait avoir encouru la désapprobation.

Ces expositions que je vous autorise, M. l'Ambassadeur, à porter à la connaissance de M. le Vicomte Palmerston, suffiront, je l'espère, pour fixer son jugement au sujet de l'information dont il vous a entretenu.

J'y ajouterai une dernière considération.

Nul n'ignore toutes les tentations, les séductions, les menaces même dirigées contre moi avant la Convention du Juillet, et lorsque nous n'étions liés par aucun engagement positif, pour me faire dévier de la ligne politique que m'était prescrite par les intérêts de mon pays. Les faits ont prouvé que j'ai su résister à tout, et justifier la confiance des Cabinets dont les vues concordaient avec les nôtres. Et maintenant que le succès est venu couronner nos communs efforts; maintenant que mon pays a pu recueillir, par la Convention du Juillet, la fruit de la persévérance de son Gouvernement dans la voie si parsemée d'écueils qu'il avait adoptée; lorsqu'enfin des obligations sacrées nous sont imposées par le parti solennel qui nous unit aujourd'hui aux Quatre Puissances, l'on me croirait assez mal avisé pour changer de direction, et assez peu jaloux de la confiance de mon Souverain et de l'estime publique pour agir en sens contraire à ces obligations. Je me réputerai malheureux, M. l'Ambassadeur, si je pouvais être un seul instant l'objet d'un pareil soupçon.

(Signé)

RECHID PACHA.

No. 100.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 281.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 25, 1840.

HIS Excellency the Internuncio has been so good as to allow me to take copies, which I inclose, of three documents relating to Syria and Egypt, which I think are well worthy of your Lordship's perusal. They corroborate, to a certain degree, the letter from Mr. Larking of the 16th instant, but they are much more instructive, and give a much clearer view of the state of affairs, and of the designs of Méhémet Ali and of the French.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 100.

Ibrahim Pasha to Mehemet Ali, (without date.)

EYUB AGA m'a apporté hier la lettre de votre Altesse. Je l'ai lue et bien comprise. Le même jour, le 3 Ramazan, sont venus ici Sélim et Ismael Pacha avec Goubran Effendi. Le Hasné n'étant pas bien pourvu, le paiement n'a pas pu se faire. Il est indispensable de m'envoyer 47,000 bourses. Voici ce que disent Sélim et Ismael. Les équipages des régimens d'Artillerie n'ont plus d'orge. La Cavalerie en manque aussi, et il est impossible de s'en procurer. Les paysans cachent tout. Ils ne veulent ni payer, ni donner rien. Les infidèles de Saïda les ont rendus audacieux.

Cependant nous manquons de beaucoup de choses. Si la mer ne sera pas bientôt libre, la Syrie ne sera pas tenable; voici comme vont les choses. Si, il y a onze jours, votre Altesse m'avait ordonné de me retirer d'ici, je ne l'aurais pas fait: mais aujourd'hui tout a changé. Notre Infanterie serait bonne, mais les Syriens ne valent rien. Je les ai laissés partir en leur faisant laisser les armes. Les Arnauts, ayant parlé à quelque séducteur, demandent leur solde ou leur congé: je les ai laissés partir. Une portion de Hanadi a eu le même sort. Nous sommes donc seuls. Les pluies et les froids deviennent incommodes. Les bivouacs ne valent rien. Je puis tenir où je suis jusqu'à la fin du Ramazan; mais je ne saurais amener les pièces dans le cas que votre Altesse voulut pour le moment abandonner Ber-es-Sham (la Syrie). Nos adversaires reçoivent des secours de Constantinople et de Malte. Les bâtimens, les soldats, les munitions leur arrivent journellement, et ils parcourent les côtes de la Syrie en autant d'heures que moi j'aurais pu l'effectuer en jours. Il est par conséquent prudent de ne pas venir ici avec la flotte, car les Anglais pourraient la prendre sous nos yeux. Les Consuls m'ont fait savoir que l'on veut bombarder Akka. Bombarder peut-être, mais prendre pour le moment, non. Tout y est en bon état. Mahmoud a demandé des Artilleurs; je lui en envoie 340, car ils me sont inutiles dans ma position ici. Rien de nouveau de la frontière. Magguin Beg est à Alep. Ahmed Beg se retirera si la troupe Ottomane voudra avancer. La saison cependant n'est pas bien favorable pour nos adversaires, et ils ne sont pas en nombre. Magguin suppose qu'il y a des espions et des séducteurs à Alep, et que le bas peuple est aveugle: la même chose arrive à Damas; les pièces le confirment.

P.S.—La date présumée de cette lettre est le 4 Ramazan (le 30 Octobre). Elle a été traduite par le Consul de France, mais ne lui a pas été remise.

Inclosure 2 in No. 100.

Translation of a Report from Alexandria.

Le 15 Novembre, 1840.

LA nouvelle de la prise de St. Jean d'Acre par les Alliés est parvenue ici le 9 du courant par le bateau à vapeur Français "l'Euphrate." Peu avant arrivèrent des Tatares par terre, annonçant l'apparition des escadres combinées par devant la dite ville avec l'intention de l'attaquer.

Méhémet Ali, qui à l'arrivée de ces nouvelles n'avait pas désespéré encore que ses affaires en Syrie pourraient prendre une tournure favorable, mit tout en œuvre pour y parvenir. On écrivit au Caire pour y parvenir sur-le-champ un corps d'armée dont l'armement avait été préparé depuis quelque temps. Simultanément les ordres tenus en réserve furent expédiés pour la sortie des escadres, qui devaient se diriger sur les côtes de Syrie avec des instructions cachetées. On comptait sur St. Jean d'Acre comme sur un point, si non imprenable pour les forces actuelles des Alliés, du moins tel à pouvoir leur résister assez longtemps pour qu'elles se trouvassent entièrement épuisées avant sa reddition.

Pendant qu'on s'occupait de ces mesures arriva au palais le Consul-Général de France pour présenter à Méhémet Ali en audience publique les officiers du

Pape venus pour recevoir quelques colonnes d'Albâtre. Ce Consul fit tomber de suite la conversation sur la sortie de l'escadre, et conseilla très-énergiquement l'abandon de cette idée. Ceci se passait dans la Grande Salle d'Audience en présence de plusieurs dignitaires et d'un public très-nombreux, lorsque Méhémet Ali éclata, et en élevant la voix s'exprima en ces termes:—"C'est vous et votre France qui m'avez mis dans cette position; je suis las des conseils vains et inutiles; désormais je n'écouterai plus personne et ne suivrai que mes propres inspirations."

M. Cochelet repliqua en priant le Pacha d'attendre encore, et en ajoutant que les affaires n'étaient pas terminées; qu'il espérait recevoir par le prochain bateau à vapeur la nouvelle que la médiation de la France a été acceptée, ou qu'elle a recours aux armes. Toutefois Méhémet Ali ne se laissa pas calmer; il déclara de nouveau à haute voix, qu'il n'attendra plus de secours d'aucune Puissance étrangère, et qu'à l'avenir il ne se laisserait guider que par sa propre volonté.

J'ai tâché de rendre compte de cette conversation aussi distinctement que possible, pour faire comprendre que Méhémet Ali avait l'intention de faire connaître publiquement quel peu de cas il faisait des promesses Françaises, quoique d'autres circonstances semblent autoriser une opinion contraire.

Quant à la prise de St. Jean d'Acre, elle a produit ici une sensation profonde, qui a tout à fait ébranlé le parti Egyptien. La dernière étincelle d'espérance en faveur de la Syrie a disparu tout à coup. Les amis de Méhémet Ali, tant Européens que Mussulmans, ainsi que les Primats les plus influents du pays, se réunissent pour le déterminer à la condescendance. Méhémet Ali se montrait au commencement taciturne et réfléchissant. Il ne trouva pas ces insinuations dignes d'aucune réponse. Peu après cependant il changeait de contenance, et il commençait par écouter les conseils de ces amis. Le soir du 10 il fit connaître à ceux-ci d'avoir pris la résolution de finir tout à l'amiable, car l'homme, disait-il, n'emporte rien de tout cela de ce monde-ci; il parlait de l'envoi d'un Parlementaire avec des propositions d'arrangement aux deux Amiraux, de la restitution de la flotte Turque, du rappel d'Ibrahim Pacha de Syrie; et le public put, durant une journée, se bercer de l'espoir d'une paix prochaine.

Le 11, M. Cochelet et le Comte Walewsky se rendaient de nouveau chez Méhémet Ali pour le détourner de son projet. Ils lui représentèrent les suites fâcheuses que les mesures susdites pourraient entraîner, et s'épuisèrent en assurances de l'appui de la France dans le cas où on en viendrait aux extrémités. En même temps ils demandèrent de lui une déclaration définitive sur le système qu'il comptait suivre à l'avenir, demande à laquelle toutefois il ne répondit que d'une manière evasive. Ce concert, quelque passif que fût le rôle qu'y joua Méhémet Ali, amena cependant, sous certains rapports, un changement dans l'état des choses. L'envoi d'un Parlementaire fut rejeté comme contraire à la dignité de Méhémet Ali, et les préparatifs de guerre furent repris avec une nouvelle vigueur. On travaille depuis avec la plus grande activité à toutes les fortifications non encore achevées. Celles qui l'étaient déjà furent montées au complet et munies du matériel nécessaire. Comme on manquait d'Artillerie de terre, on débarqua des flottes 8000 Artilleurs et Matelots, dont quelques détachements doivent être employés aussi sur d'autres points de la côte. Au débarquement de ces troupes se rattacha le désarmement de tous les bâtimens de guerre de notre part. Trois régimens de Cavalerie stationnés ici reçurent l'ordre de partir pour El Ariche, vers où se dirigera aussi l'expédition préparée au Caire et destinée pour la Syrie. Enfin on annonça à la Garde Nationale que dorénavant on lui donnerait, comme aux troupes de ligne, une paye formelle et des rations,—mesure qui produisit la plus fâcheuse impression sur ce corps mécontent, qui se croit à présent entièrement incorporé au militaire.

En attendant, cependant, Ibrahim Pacha a été rappelé de Syrie, et l'ordre lui en a été transmis par quatre courriers expédiés par des routes différentes. Pour ce qui regarde d'ailleurs les préparatifs de guerre, il s'y rattache tant d'affectation et un désir si patent de produire de l'effet, que, quelque sérieux qu'ils puissent être, cette vue secondaire ne saurait être méconnue.

Voici le tableau qu'offre aujourd'hui la vie publique d'Alexandrie. D'après ce qui précède, il est difficile de voir au fond des choses. Mais je puis avancer ici, comme étant la conviction de plusieurs personnes admises dans la confiance de Méhémet Ali, que sa flexibilité continue, qu'il devient tous les jours plus étranger aux espérances qu'il avait placées dans le Gouvernement Français, et

que tout le reste ne se fait que pour donner la meilleure couleur possible aux chances qu'il aurait dans le cas où il ne serait pas réduit à se battre pour la dernière pouce de terrain.

Le 16 Novembre, au soir.

P.S.—La nouvelle de la dissolution du Ministère Thiers a été apporté ici par le bateau à vapeur arrivé hier. En la recevant Méhémet Ali a observé, dit-on, une attitude entièrement passive.

Inclosure 3 in No. 100.

Report from M. Laurin to the Internuncio.

Péra, le 24 Novembre, 1840.

D'APRES les nouvelles du Caire du 14 du courant la nouvelle de la prise d'Acre y avait produit une sensation difficile à décrire. L'Armée d'Ibrahim Pacha a reçu l'ordre de rentrer sans délai en Egypte; l'expédition de 6,000 hommes destinés pour la Syrie a fait halte, et 1,800 hommes seulement en seront détachés pour el Arishe. Méhémet Ali fait tous les efforts pour se fortifier à Alexandrie, et prétend vouloir résister aux attaques des Alliés.

Les ouvriers des fabriques ainsi que les soldats près du Rédif ont été congédiés, parceque le Gouvernement n'a pas pu les payer.

Les nouvelles d'Alexandrie du 16 du courant portent que Méhémet Ali a fait des reproches assez vifs, tant au Consul-Général de France qu'à M. de Walewsky, sur la conduite de la France à son égard, et qu'il n'écouterait plus les conseils de cette nation, mais qu'il suivrait ses propres volontés; qu'il est prêt à s'entendre à l'amiable avec la Porte et ses Alliés; qu'il se contenterait de l'hérédité de l'Egypte, et qu'il aviserait incessamment sur ce que sera plus convenable, ou d'attendre une ouverture de la Porte, ou bien d'envoyer à Constantinople quelqu'un avec ses propositions de soumission.

Les Français lui suggéraient de faire ces ouvertures par l'entremise de la France: le Pacha penchait pour une entente avec l'Amiral Stopford. On suppose cependant que Méhémet Ali ne veut que gagner du temps pour faire sortir Ibrahim Pacha, qui se trouve dans une très-mauvaise position, de la Syrie, et pour se fortifier en Egypte. Les Egyptiens sont las des exigences du Pacha et prêts à se livrer aux Ottomans à discrétion. Un esprit mutin a envahi l'escadre Egyptienne, et le Pacha en craint les conséquences. La nouvelle de l'insurrection des Napoléoniens, qui doivent avoir massacré la garnison de Jérusalem et s'être emparés de la Sainte Ville, a complètement confondu le Vice-Roi et ses amis.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) M. LAURIN.

No. 101.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 282.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 30, 1840.

I INCLOSE reports received yesterday evening from Mr. Wood, and I hope your Lordship will approve of the prudence and activity of that Gentleman, who has contributed more to the success obtained in Syria than most men.

Izzet Pasha and some few other ill-disposed Turks have created just dissatisfaction amongst some of the mountaineers. Izzet is recalled, and the others will be removed from authority. The Porte is ready to take any measures for ensuring to the Syrians the reward of their loyalty to the Sultan.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Beyrout, November 10, 1840.

HIS Excellency Selim Pasha has dictated to me the inclosed letter of thanks to your Lordship, for the honour his Sovereign has been graciously pleased to confer upon him, in promoting him to the rank of Ferick, which he feels conscious of owing to your Lordship's kind recommendation of him.

I avail myself of the opportunity to do justice to the honourable conduct of Selim Pasha, in his important command in Syria under so many trying circumstances, and to express my personal obligations to him for the readiness with which he has complied with all my suggestions and wishes, and for the assistance he has given me in every instance.

In repeating my thanks to your Lordship for His Highness the Grand Vizier's letter to me, giving me authority to interfere in the administration and in the arrangements of the civil affairs of Syria, I take the liberty of inclosing herewith a letter of thanks to His Highness under a flying seal.

Anxious not to betray the confidence reposed in me, I have made use of the authority of the Sublime Porte for the best interests of the Sultan, as far as it lays in my power, without, however, surpassing the limits which prudence, discretion, and delicacy towards the Turkish officers here impose upon me. I am greatly indebted to his Excellency the Moushteshar Effendi, whose amiable and conciliating disposition is beyond all praise, for his ready compliance with, and hearty co-operation in, all my demands. It is, however, but proper to state, that there remains yet a great deal to be done, which must be left for after considerations. In the mean time the greatest caution and prudence is required to conciliate the people, and please and content all parties,—a delicate task in a country where there are so many interests all clashing with each other, and where there are almost as many petty chiefs as there are peasants, who are reluctant to forego the right of governing their Clients in the manner of their forefathers, in favour of an enlightened and general system of administration.

In proportion as difficulties of this nature occur, I will take the liberty of noting them to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

Selim Pasha to Mr. Wood.

(Translation.)

Sincere Friend, &c.

15th Ramazan, 1257.

ON the 14th of the month Ramazan I received a letter from the inhabitants of Jaffa, as also a petition from Mustapha Bey, apprising me of the flight of the Egyptian General, Mustapha Bey, with his troops, the moment he learned from the fugitives that Acre was taken.

Mustapha Bey, Colonel in the Egyptian Army, endeavoured to follow him, but was prevented by the inhabitants, whose demand to have some troops sent for the protection and defence of the castle I have submitted to their Excellencies Izzet Pasha and the Admiral, and I hope they will speedily honour me with their answers.

I have also given orders for the removal of Mustapha Bey to this place.

I have great pleasure in informing you, that a Bin Bashi with 800 men have joined us, and trusting to your friendship to do the needful, &c.,

(Signed) SELIM MUHAMED.

Inclosure 3 in No. 101.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Beyrout, November 17, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translation of a letter addressed to me by his Excellency Selim Pasha, informing me of the evacuation of Jaffa by the Egyptians. Selim Aga, Binbassi, deserted to Acre with 800 men, but unfortunately the mountaineers attacked him on the road, killed about 200 of them, and allowed the remainder to proceed to join the Turkish troops in a state of nudity.

Ibrahim Bey, Brigadier-General, who commanded at Jaffa, retired with only a part of his troops, but the inhabitants arrested Mustapha Bey, the Colonel, and the officers that were with him, who are to be sent prisoners to Acre.

The possession of Jaffa will leave the Egyptians at Jerusalem no means of effecting their escape. The country, without exception, around them, is up in arms, and I am in hopes that the surrender of that important place will speedily follow. Jerusalem is surrounded by a strong wall, and is situated on the summit of lofty mountains, where it would be difficult to transport cannon. It could therefore be easily defended by a small number of Turkish soldiers, in the event of its surrender, which will be worth the sacrifice, as its inland position would render it invaluable in cutting off completely Ibrahim Pasha's retreat to Egypt.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 101.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Beyrout, November 19, 1840.

THE evacuation of Jaffa by the Egyptians has been followed by that of Jerusalem in the manner stated in the letter I have the honour to inclose herewith from the Kady or Judge of that place.

The mountains of Naplous, as well as the capital of that district, have also returned to their allegiance to the Sultan, and have received the Governors appointed by his Excellency Selim Pasha.

The influential and powerful family of El Hadi was the chief support of Mehemet Ali's power in the South of Syria, the principal members of it holding the most lucrative and important commands under him.

At the capture of Acre, Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, the Superintendent-General, fled to Naplous, and endeavoured apparently, according to the letter of the present Civil Governor of Acre, inclosed, to reunite his friends and form a party against us. His efforts happily proving ineffectual, he has conformed to circumstances, and has tried to make amends for his past disloyalty by calling on the Sheiks of the different tribes of that neighbourhood to return to their allegiance to the Sultan.

Although, from what has come to my knowledge respecting the proceedings of this Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, I am far from placing reliance in his protestations of loyalty set forth in his letter; yet I have advised his Excellency Izzet Pasha to use him kindly, and to endeavour to withdraw him from the districts where he enjoys the greatest influence, by inviting him to come to Beyrout, under the pretext of conferring with him on the affairs of the country, by which important information may be elicited from him, at the same time that a useful servant may be secured to the Government hereafter. There is no doubt, however, but what his submission is as advantageous to us as it is ruinous to the cause of Mehemet Ali in the South. The securing of this notorious family alone renders the possession of Naplous a matter of still greater importance.

Previous to my departure from Acre, I had the satisfaction of procuring an interview, through my friend Sheik Saïd Abdul-Al, with the Chiefs of the districts of

Djebel-el Koura—Jousef and Salah.
Barakat Djebel Ferish—Kahlan Meflik, Effendi Homan.
Djanamat Mersouk Dadiji—El Meshalik, Mufti, and Hassan al Aly.
Salt—Nimr el Suleiman.

And of the Sheiks of the Arab tribes of

Araban el Sakem—Rahab.
Abad—Mufti and Abr el Heby.
Arabrbeni Saher—Nimr el Suleiman.
El Edivan—Salek el Amondik, Mohamed el Kaid.
Arabr el Balka—Abdul Aziz el Minof.

All of whom declared that, as true Mussulmans, they were not only bound to acknowledge the Sultan as their only true and legitimate master, but that they were enjoined to fight all who rebelled or took up arms against him.

I procured from his Excellency Selim Pasha separate Boyourouldis for them and robes of honour, according to their custom, and dismissed them highly satisfied and sincere in their professions of allegiance to their lawful Sovereign.

Sheik Saïd Abd el Al informs me also, that the famous Turcoman Chief Sheik Halfi Sturkman is actively employed in making preparations to drive back Ibrahim Pasha's advanced posts on his left flank, and that he will endeavour to detach from the Egyptian Army the Emir el Fadl, with the Bedouin cavalry that is under his command.

The Bedouin Sheiks, as far south-east as Balka and Mikelka, are all come in to offer their services; Naplous, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Hebron, Janin, Nazaret, Tiberias, Saffet, &c., are all now governed by native officers duly appointed by their Excellencies Izzet Pasha and Selim Pasha; and all the Arab Sheiks of the tribes occupying the intermediate districts have received personally their Boyourouldis from the same authorities. All the country, therefore, south and east of Acre, as far as El Arish, except Gaza, Hebron, the Dead Sea, Salt, El Sedja, &c., have acknowledged and have submitted to the authority of the Sultan.

In announcing the foregoing effects of His Highness's arms and influence in these countries, I beg respectfully to offer my congratulations to your Lordship on the entire submission of the whole of Palestine and Judea to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 5 in No. 101.

The Kady Mollah's Letter on the Surrender of Jerusalem.

(Translation.)

14th Ramazan.

After the usual compliments.

ON the receipt of the noble Boyourouldi at the Mehkeme of Jerusalem, apprising us of the taking of all the sea-coast towns, of the submission of Mount Lebanon, and of all the inhabitants of those parts, as well as of the panic and discomfiture of the Egyptian troops, I invited to my Divan the great and the small, the rich and the poor, on the 13th night of the holy month of Ramazan, and had it read publicly to them; who one and all responded, "We have heard, and we have obeyed; and have demanded that Seid Hussein Rechid Effendi should be confirmed in his civil government."

The 200 Egyptians, soldiers that composed the garrison of Jerusalem, have submitted, and have surrendered the castle. Mohamed Aga, with his 300 horsemen, have followed their example; I have attached them to the Civil Governor, but I have to request that 200 Turkish troops may be sent imme-

diately, as a matter of great necessity, to deliver up to them the castle, and the gates of the town. By the will of the Almighty, all have returned to their allegiance to the Sublime Porte, and have expressed their contentment, not outwardly, but from the bottom of their hearts.

The public registers will be sent hereafter; in the mean time, letters have been sent to the Governors of Gaza, Ramah, Jericho, Naplous, Djebel-el-Rahman and Djebel Halil, to present themselves. With the assistance of the Almighty, the population of all these places will readily tender their submission; and repeating my request that a few Turkish troops may be sent without delay,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) (L.S.) MOHAMED HAMED AGA,
Kady of Jerusalem.

Inclosure 6 in No. 101.

Seid Abd el Al, Governor of Acre, to Mr. Wood.

(Translation.)

Le 17 Ramazan, 1256.

APRES l'arrivée des forces des Alliés et celles du Sultan devant les murs d'Acre, la destruction des forts de la ville, et la fuite de tous les habitants rebelles qui s'y trouvaient et qui, ne pouvant pas s'éloigner, ont été arrêtés, on a bien vu que le Chéik Mahmud Abd el Adi, ex-Gérant d'Acre, après sa fuite s'est réuni avec son neveu Chéik Suliman el Hessen, ex-Gouverneur de Naplous, avec leurs familles et leurs gens, pour jurer fidélité au Gouverneur Egyptien (c'est-à-dire, d'être rebelles au Sultan). A ce sujet nous avons jugé nécessaire de nommer Chéik Zadig el Jamain Gouverneur de Naplous, étant resté fidèle à la cause du Sultan, d'après un buyuruld de Sélim Pacha; il a été pourvu d'armes, et est parti pour Naplous afin d'attaquer l'ennemi. On a nommé aussi Mohammed el Yerar Gouverneur de Jamin, et aussitôt que la famille d'Abd el Hadi le sut, il ne pensa qu'à fuir de la ville; ils envoyèrent un d'eux à se présenter auprès de son Excellence Sélim Pacha pour se soumettre: ils obtinrent un buyuruld pour leur sûreté. Son Excellence Sélim Pacha ordonna que leurs Chefs lui soient présentés, et le porteur du dit ordre est parti hier; et aujourd'hui les dits Chefs sont arrivés et se sont présentés auprès de son Excellence pour se soumettre à la cause du Sultan, en demandant à son Excellence une portion d'armes pour attaquer les Egyptiens, afin que par ce moyen ils pussent obtenir leur liberté. Mais je suis d'opinion qu'ils font cause commune avec Ibrahim Pacha, étant reconnus comme vrais partisans du Gouvernement Egyptien: ils se flattaient que le dit Gouvernement serait toujours victorieux dans ces provinces, ayant eu les emplois les plus honorifiques, comme cela vous aura été déjà rapporté. Ils disent avoir été attachés à la cause du Sultan: pourquoi donc ne l'ont-ils pas fait avant la destruction des murs d'Acre?

Le dit Gérant ne s'est pas rendu. Il a échappé après avoir vu que la citadelle ne résistait plus; et pour vous prouver davantage, il y a dix jours qu'Acre est à notre pouvoir, et ils n'y sont retournés que ce matin, après avoir observé leur mauvaise position, et leurs intérêts, qu'ils n'avaient aucun espoir au commandement de Naplous, car il était déjà occupé.

Prenant en considération le tout, vous remarquerez que leur présence ici n'est pas utile, et peut-être occasionnera des dissensions parmi les gens qui sont soumis au Sultan; et je suppose aussi, qu'étant attachés aux Egyptiens ils soulèveront une portion de la montagne de Naplous en leur faveur, et de cette manière les pays ne peuvent jouir de la tranquillité.

Comme je suis un serviteur très-attaché au Sultan, je prends la liberté de vous donner mon opinion que leur départ de la Syrie serait nécessaire comme celle de l'Emir Béchir l'a été.

Inclosure 7 in No. 101.

Mahmud Abdul-Adi and Solyman El Hessem to Mr. Wood.

(Translation.)

Le 15 Ramazan, 1256.

J'AI fait chercher tous les Chéiks de la montagne de Jérusalem pour leur conseiller de se soumettre au Sultan. Jusqu'à ce jour les Chéiks du côté de Rémy Salem, qui sont Chéik Abdul Hamed, Chéik Mustafa Abrunihareb; et aussi les Chéiks du côté de Bémine, qui sont le Chéik Hassam-ell Hayferri, Chéik Abdul Azig, Chéik Ahmed Abroguide; et je les ai prévenu que le Sultan avait déchu Méhémet Ali du Pachalic d'Egypte, qu'il avait déjà fait marcher ses troupes tant par terre que par mer pour détruire les troupes du dit rébel; et de l'arrivée de Son Altesse Izzet Mohamed Pacha à Beyrout, honoré des commandemens de Saïda, Tripoli, et Généralissime de toute la Syrie, et de la Vice-Royauté du Pachalic d'Egypte; leur ajoutant les victoires remportées sur l'ennemi Ibrahim Pacha, et la prise de plus de 15,000 hommes de ses troupes, ayant été obligé de fuir lui-même; que toutes les populations de Saïda, Tripoli, les montagnes, et tous ses environs, comme aussi les montagnes de Naplous, se sont soumis au Sultan, qui a aboli les monopoles établis par Ibrahim Pacha, comme les Ferdès, &c.; en leur faisant aussi un rapport de la prise d'Acre, qui les a beaucoup étonnés, et que tous ceux qui se soumettraient au Sultan, et qui s'exposeraient à rendre des services, auront la parfaite tranquillité et seront armés à Son Altesse Izzet Pacha pour se battre contre les troupes Egyptiennes qui sont à leur voisinage, afin de cerner les chemins pour qu'aucune communication n'ait lieu avec l'ennemi. Mon rapport fit une telle impression auprès des sus-mentionnés Chéiks, qu'ils jurèrent soumission au Sultan, et rendront tous les services en leur pouvoir.

Comme on a déjà représenté à Son Altesse Izzet Pacha, lui demandant des armes et munitions pour les habitans de la montagne de Naplous, il est urgent d'envoyer 2,000 fusils de plus de ceux qui ont déjà été demandés, et que ces derniers serviront pour les habitans de la montagne de Jérusalem.

Il est arrivé aujourd'hui le Chéik Sami-el-Adruen, cousin du Chéik Suliman El-Shibly-el Aduen, qui est le Chéik des Bédouins du Balba, pour vous prier de vous faire demander un buyuruldi pour leur tranquillité.

J'ajouterai ma prière pour vous demander deux autres buyuruldis, dont l'un pour les Chéiks des Bédouins du Mikellua, qui se nomment Chéik Salil-el-favur et Chéik Sahur-er-Battia; et le second pour les Chéiks des Bédouins, nommés Abad, qui sont Chéik Fendi, le Chéik Kabalan, Chéik Fadil, et le Chéik Mussalt-Isse, pour leur sûreté et pour battre les troupes qui se trouvent avec le Kaftan Agassi d'Ibrahim Pacha.

Inclosure 8 in No. 101.

Said Abd el Al, Governor of Acre, to Mr. Wood.

(Translation.)

Le 18 Ramazan, 1256.

APRES la prise d'Acre j'ai écrit à plusieurs Chefs, parmi lesquels au Chéik Ziafi Turkman, qui est une personne de beaucoup d'influence, en le prévenant de cerner les chemins aux troupes Egyptiennes, et de tenter à un petit mouvement vers Damas, et le suppliant de nous mettre au fait des nouvelles de ces parages. Je viens de recevoir la réponse qui me fait savoir, qu'à Mézarib il y a un certain Kaftan Agassi avec 1,000 cavaliers irréguliers, et 800 réguliers, et Mohammed Aga Bashi Bozouk, avec des troupes d'Ibrahim Pacha; en ajoutant qu'il va expédier des lettres pour l'Emir-el-Fades (Bédouin) pour le persuader de se rendre du côté du Sultan, ou qu'ils restassent neutres; il m'a assuré aussi que toutes communications avec les provinces attenantes sont empêchées; seulement un seul convoi de provisions parti de Damas, et

escorté de 250 cavaliers, a passé. Il ajoute qu'une personne de Lajia nommée Sétan suivait, croyant que c'était un Chef des Bédouins qui passait. Au contraire, le dit Sétan a réuni des troupes pour la cause du Sultan contre Kaftan Agassi.

Ibrahim Pacha s'est retiré avec ses troupes à Zabedian, et je me fais un devoir de vous le faire savoir.

Inclosure 9 in No. 101.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Beyrout, November 19, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I returned to Beyrout, on the 15th instant, from the mountains, where I had been to see and communicate verbally with the Emir Bechir on subjects relating to the present crisis of affairs in the country; as also to collect correct information of the movements of the enemy and their effective force, the positions they occupied, and the communications that were still open to them, and the state of their Commissariat and Supplies.

Ibrahim Pasha's camp at Malaka (a place adjoining Zahlé) is composed of 10,000 Infantry, two squadrons of Lancers (about 1,000 men), and 1,000 Irregular Cavalry. He is intrenched, and he has with him thirteen field-pieces. At Yebdané, a village five hours or leagues from Malaka, there are 2,000 Infantry and 500 Cavalry to guard the road, and at Balbec, four hours from Malaka, 500 Kurdish Cavalry.

Besides the above, he has stationed his Kaftan Agassi (Master of the Wardrobe) in the Hauran, six hours from Damascus, with two battalions of Infantry, 600 Cavalry, and three field-pieces; and his Madjoun Agassi at Mezari, twelve hours from Katmin, with two battalions of Infantry, and 700 Bedouin Cavalry. At Homs and Hamah there are only four battalions of the Line. The Egyptian forces, therefore, in the South amount to about 14,500 Infantry and 4,500 Cavalry, besides the garrison of Damascus. Ahmed Meneckly Pasha is in the direction of Aleppo with eight battalions of Infantry (if complete, 6,400) and 1,000 Cuirassiers, and a certain Ahmed Bey Ebin Mursaloglu-deb-Hauk has been named Pasha, and sent from the camp to Aleppo to collect, it is said, the troops that are in the North.

If any reliance can be put in the reports lately circulated, the Egyptian forces concentrated in the North, near or at Aleppo, amount to about 15,000 men. It appears to me, however, from the accounts I have received at various periods of the movements of the different regiments, that their numbers are greatly exaggerated; and it is evident, besides, that if Ibrahim Pasha possessed such a force on the frontiers, he would not have had recourse to the hard expedient of abandoning Koulek-Bogas in the Taurus, destroying the works there, and spiking nearly 500 brass cannon.

The Egyptian troops have been withdrawn from Tarsus, Adana, Marash, Aintab, Orfa, and Antioch. The 500 Druse Cavalry that were quartered at Al Boston have deserted to Malatia, and of the three regiments that were retiring from Marash, one fled into the Desert near Aleppo—the other two were prevented, with difficulty, from following their example.

From the annexed approximate Estimate of the Egyptian Army, its actual amount may be fairly stated to vary from 24,000 to 26,000 effective men; but as the Mustechar Effendi has faithfully promised me to-day that he would incur the expence of sending intelligent emissaries to the North to ascertain both their numbers and their condition, I hope to be able soon to furnish your Lordship with more positive and satisfactory information on this head.

The principal depôts of the Egyptian army are at Damascus and Homs, from whence he procures his supplies, however with great difficulty and risk. He is obliged to detach strong bodies of Cavalry to escort the convoys, to protect them from being captured by the armed mountaineers, who are in possession of some of the passes of Anti-Libanus. Notwithstanding these precautions, only a few days since, a large convoy of 400 mules and camels was

captured by the people of the Hauran, who killed 200 of the escort. In revenge, he has sent his Kaftan Agassi into their country to pillage and destroy it, but fortunately they have surrounded him, although they cannot drive him away from his position, which he defends with three pieces of cannon.

The famous Druse warrior Sheik Shibli-el-Argan has joined Ibrahim from Marash with 400 Druse horsemen. Immediately on his arrival, he put himself in communication with the Emir Bechir, whom he begged to procure for him and his men a Boyourouldi from his Excellency Izzet Pasha, promising him and his men their arrears of pay when he would join us, and bring with him as many of the Egyptian forces as he could entice away. The moment the Emir Bechir apprized me of this circumstance, I lost no time in making the necessary arrangements to secure the co-operation of this Sheik, from whose doubtless courage and known fame I anticipate many valuable services in the cause of the Sultan.

I subjoin an extract from Halil Pasha's letter, which will convey to your Lordship both the panic that has seized the Egyptians, and the expedients to which Ibrahim Pasha has recourse to intimidate the people, who are more afraid of the Albanians and Irregular troops than of the Nizam.

"Sheriff Pasha has dispersed the band of the 6th Regiment that was at Damascus, and has turned the privates into a body of Irregulars, whom he armed, and sent to a place called Sakra, together with a body of Irregular Cavalry. On some of the fugitives joining them, and informing them that Acre was captured in three hours, praise be to the Almighty, fear came over their hearts, and they fled back to Damascus, where, however, Sheriff punished them, and forced them to return to their aforesaid place. On their march thither, about sixteen of them, officers and privates, ran away to Saïda, and on inquiring of them the state of Ibrahim's army, they answered, 'It is all over with Ibrahim this time: we are only waiting for the appearance of the Sultan's troops, when we will desert. This is our intention, and we are only looking out for some *mêlée* or other to afford us an opportunity.'"

I believe this feeling to be universal in the Egyptian Army, and it is not, therefore, surprising if, with such disaffected and disorganized troops, Ibrahim should not dare to move out of his intrenchments, or that he should be obliged to put officers for sentries to prevent desertion at night. Whenever the Sultan's troops are led on, they are sure of victory. It will be the signal for the general dispersion of the Egyptian Army in Syria, the destruction of which I consider inevitable, if advantage be taken in time of the enthusiasm and the spirit that seems to animate the people.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 10 in No. 101.

Approximate Estimate of the Egyptian Forces in Syria.

<i>Beyrout, November 19, 1840.</i>			
16 Regiments of Infantry, at 3,200 men	51,200	Effective	32,000
5 Regiments of Regular Cavalry, at 700 men	3,500	"	3,000
2 Squadrons of Cuirassiers	1,000	"	1,000
Irregular Cavalry and Infantry, about	10,000	"	10,000
	65,700		46,000
Prisoners and deserters, nearly	15,000		
One Regiment that fled to the Desert	2,000		
Druse Cavalry that fled to Malatia	500		
Dispersed Syrians and Egyptians, about	2,500		
			20,000
Total of the effective Egyptian forces remaining in Syria			26,000

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 102.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 28.)

(No. 378.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 25, 1840.

I THIS morning told M. Guizot, that the Baron de Bourqueney, whose attention had been called by your Lordship to that passage of Commodore Napier's letter which states the arrival of a new French Negotiator at Alexandria, had observed that the person to whom that passage alluded must have been M. de Beaufort.

M Guizot said, this might very possibly be the case; for, at the time he came into office, Captain Beaufort, who had served in the Egyptian Army in Syria, was waiting at Toulon for a passage to Alexandria, charged with instructions from M. Thiers to proceed to Egypt and Syria, for the purpose of reporting to the French Government the state of the war in Syria, and the result to be expected from the operations of the Allies against the Army of Ibrahim Pasha; and he (M. Guizot) had not interposed to prevent Captain Beaufort from proceeding to execute his instructions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 28.)

(Most confidential.)

Extract.

Paris, December 25, 1840.

ON Tuesday last King Louis Philippe, after I had presented the Queen's letter to His Majesty, entered into a long conversation with me, which began on the subject of Commodore Napier's Convention. His Majesty said, that he was not surprised, that in ratifying the Convention the Allied Powers had made a reserve, in regard to that part of it by which the hereditary Government of Egypt was guaranteed to Mehemet Ali; he trusted that the refusal of that guarantee would not retard the final settlement of the Turco-Egyptian Question; and that the relations which formerly subsisted between the European Powers and France would ere long be re-established.

No. 104.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 284.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 8, 1840.

I RECEIVED on the 6th at night, from Commodore Napier, a copy of the Convention he signed with Boghos Bey at Alexandria, on the 26th of November, 1840, and I immediately communicated it to the Porte and to my Colleagues.

Your Lordship has received the Commodore's report upon the subject, and I have only to acquaint you, that the Sublime Porte has formally declared the Convention to be null and void; and that my Colleagues and myself concur in the declaration; and further, that I have written official letters to Admiral Stopford, to Commodore Napier, Consul Larking, at Alexandria, to the officer in command of Her Majesty's ships at Beyrout, to the commanding officer of the British troops in Syria, and to Mr Consul Moore,—the purport of which is to make known the declaration of

2 D 3

the Sublime Porte, and to prevent, as far as may be in my power, the carrying into execution any part of the Convention.

It is unnecessary for me to say, that no Government in the position of the Ottoman Porte could, for one moment, tolerate the assumption by an individual of the right to treat for it with any Power, whether existing *de jure* or *de facto* in the guise of a rebel Power. Her Majesty's Ambassador is wholly unauthorized to recognize the act of an individual unprovided with powers by Her Majesty's Government; and the Ministers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia are equally unauthorized to recognize the acts of a person so circumstanced.

This proceeding has thrown no little discredit upon the management of our affairs; and the Sublime Porte hardly knows what to think of the manner in which the Admiral and the Commodore have acted, in assuming authority they have no right to exercise—the first with respect to the blockade, the second in the present affair.

I beg leave to call your Lordship's attention to the fact, that the want of means for communicating with Syria and Egypt has been, throughout the progress of the important business in this country, of serious detriment to Her Majesty's service, and may now be the occasion of the escape of Ibrahim's Army from Syria, if the rashness of those who made the Convention at Alexandria should be carried to the extreme of putting it into execution. I have taken the liberty many times to represent the above-mentioned want of means. I am sure they will never be afforded me, unless by command of Her Majesty's Government. I beg to be exonerated from blame for the past, present, and future evils attendant upon such a want.

The Sublime Porte has no steamer at its command at this moment, all being employed in active service, or in dock, and one has been wrecked.

The Sublime Porte not only rejects, as it has done, the Convention, but it is indignant that such an arrangement should be considered possible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Viscount Ponsonby to Sir Robert Stopford.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, copy of a despatch I have sent to Commodore Napier, wherein you will find my official statement of the fact, that the Sublime Porte has formally protested against a Convention, signed "Charles Napier, Commodore, Boghos Bey," dated from the "Medea" steamer, Alexandria, November 27, 1840; and further, that the Representatives of the Four Allied Powers concur with the Sublime Porte in declaring that Convention null and void *ab initio*, and that Commodore Napier had no authority or right whatsoever to make that Convention.

I beg leave to express my hope, that you may judge it to be expedient to exert your authority, to prevent the said Convention being carried into execution in any degree whatsoever; and that, if it should be in progress of execution, you will order that progress to be completely arrested, and put a stop to, if within your power, however far advanced it may be towards its termination; I mean, that if the troops of Ibrahim should be actually at sea, and on their way to Egypt, you will cause them to be seized and reconducted to the place from whence they may have been taken in Syria, which, we presume, it may be not difficult to do by means of the steamers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Viscount Ponsonby to Commodore Napier.

Sir,

Therapia, December 7, 1840.

I HAD the honour last night to receive your communication of a Convention, dated "Medea" steamer, Alexandria, November 27, 1840, signed "Charles Napier, Commodore, Boghos Bey."

I immediately laid that Convention before the Sublime Porte, and acquainted my Colleagues, the Austrian Internuncio, the Prussian Envoy, and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, with it. It is my duty to acquaint you, that the Sublime Porte has made a formal protest against your acts, declaring, that you have no power or authority whatever to justify what you have done, and that the Convention is null and void.

My Colleagues, above-mentioned, and myself entirely concur with the Sublime Porte, and declare, that we are ignorant of your having the least right to assume the powers you have exercised, and that we consider the Convention null and void *ab initio*.

It is my duty to call upon you to abstain from every attempt to carry your Convention into execution in any degree whatever; and to state, that you are bound, by your duty to Her Majesty, to continue to act with the ships under your command, as you did act before you assumed the right to make the aforesaid Convention, and as you would have acted in conformity with your orders, if that Convention had never been made by you.

I have sent copy of this despatch to Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, and also to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 104.

Viscount Ponsonby to Mr. Consul Larking.

Sir,

Therapia, December 7, 1840.

I HAVE to acquaint you for your guidance in the discharge of your duties, and for the information of all persons within your Consular jurisdiction, that the Sublime Porte, with the full approbation and concurrence of the Representatives of the Four Allied Powers *signataires* of the Convention of the 15th of July, 1840, has formally protested against, and declared null and void *ab initio*, a Convention, dated from Alexandria the 27th of November, 1840, and signed "Charles Napier, Commodore, Boghos Bey."

You will be pleased to observe, that it is your duty to oppose, to the best of your power, the carrying any part of the aforesaid Convention into effect, inasmuch as it is not based upon any authority whatever.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 104.

Viscount Ponsonby to the Officer commanding the British Naval Forces off Beyrout.

Sir,

Therapia, December 7, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, copy of a despatch I have sent to Commodore Napier, wherein you will find my official statement of the fact, that the Sublime Porte has formally pro-

I beg leave to express my hope that you may judge it to be expedient to exert your authority to prevent the said Convention being carried into execution in any degree whatsoever; and that if it should be in progress of execution, you will order that progress to be completely arrested, and put a stop to, if within your power, however far advanced it may be towards its termination; I mean that if the troops of Ibrahim should be actually at sea, and on their way to Egypt, you will cause them to be seized and reconducted to the place from whence they may have been taken in Syria, which we presume it may not be difficult to do by means of the steamers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure 5 in No. 104.

*Viscount Ponsonby to the Officer commanding the British Military Forces
in Syria.*

Therapia, December 7, 1840.

Sir,

Sir, I HAVE the honour to acquaint you officially that the Sublime Porte, having had cognizance of a Convention, signed at Alexandria on the 27th of November, 1840, by Commodore Napier and Boghos Bey, has formally declared that Convention to be null and void *ab initio*; and I have, in consequence, to request you will pay no attention whatever to the provisions it contains, but that you act in the performance of your orders as if you had never been informed of the existence of that Convention, excepting in the case that there may have been a commencement of execution of any part thereof, or some progress made therein, in which case I hope and I presume that you will think it your duty to exert all your authority and all the means at your disposition to stop its progress, or to seize upon any troops that may be on their route in consequence of said Convention, and cause them to be reconducted to that place in Syria from whence they may have been permitted to depart.

I have, &c.,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure 6 in No. 104.

Viscount Ponsonby to Mr. Consul Moore.

Therapia, December 7, 1840.

Sir,

I HAVE to acquaint you that the Sublime Porte has declared null and void, *ab initio*, a Convention, dated Alexandria, 27th of November, 1840, signed "Charles Napier, Commodore, Boghos Bey."

I beg you will make known to all persons within your Consular jurisdiction the fact I have above stated, and that you will yourself consider that Convention null and void.

I have, &c.,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received December 31.)

(No. 286.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 8, 1840.

AFTER the departure of my despatch No. 284, I received the inclosed notes from M. Etienne Pisani, which I hasten to transmit to your Lordship, just as they came to my hands, in the hope of being in time for the "Estafette."

I inclose also copy of a despatch sent this day by the Sublime Porte to Chekib Effendi, which I have just received from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY**

P.S.—I inclose copy of a note from the Sublime Porte, this moment received, refusing, *ab initio*, Commodore Napier's Convention.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

M. Etienne Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 8 Décembre, 1840.

DANS ce moment j'arrive de la Porte, où j'ai rencontré Eub Pacha, qui vient d'arriver à bord du "Tahri Bahri" avec des dépêches de la part de Selim Pacha. Il est dit dans ces dépêches, que la Convention signée entre le Commandeur Napier et Méhémet Ali a été reçue au camp avec une désapprobation unanime, et qu'on la considérait comme nulle et non avenue tant qu'ils n'avaient des instructions de la part de la Sublime Porte de s'y conformer.

Qu'Ibrahim Pacha avait quitté Zahlé, et qu'il s'était retiré avec toutes ses troupes vers Damas, et même qu'il en avait fait filé une partie vers l'Egypte; mais Sir Charles Smith a fait marcher immédiatement un régiment sur Jérusalem pour tâcher de les empêcher d'effectuer leur retraite.

Alep ainsi que ses environs ont été entièrement évacués par les Egyptiens, et sont maintenant sous l'autorité exclusive de Sa Hautesse.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,
(Signé) E. J. PISANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

M. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Le 8 Décembre, 1840.

APRES que Récid Pacha m'a communiqué la nouvelle que j'ai adressée officiellement à votre Excellence, j'ai pris la liberté de lui dire que j'espérais que les dépêches qu'il venait de recevoir ne lui feraient pas changer d'avis, et qu'il expédierait également au Commandant-en-Chef en Syrie les lettres et les instructions dont on était convenu. Le Pacha m'a répondu, que loin de cela il allait en accélérer l'envoi, et qu'il allait écrire au nom du Sultan une lettre d'approbation. Au moment où nous étions à nous entretenir, le Baron de Testa ainsi que le Prince Hangeri sont entrés, et ils ont fait la même observation que moi, et le Pacha leur a donné la même réponse.

Comme je ne veux pas perdre du tems, demain j'aurai l'honneur de rapporter à votre Excellence ce qui j'ai fait quant aux commissions dont elle m'a chargé ce matin.

Agréer, &c.,
(Signé) E. J. PISANI

P.S.—Pardonnez, my Lord, mon griffonnage, mais comme la nouvelle est trop intéressante je ne veux pas perdre du tems en recopiant mon rapport.

Inclosure 3 in No. 105.

Translation of a Despatch, addressed by the Sublime Porte to Chekib Effendi at London.

Le 13 Chewall, 1256. (Le 8 Décembre, 1840.)

TOUT le monde a été à même d'apprécier les bonnes intentions et la modération dont la Sublime Porte a fait preuve envers Méhémet Ali, depuis l'avènement au trône de notre Auguste Maître, tout en avisant aux moyens de défendre les droits et les intérêts du trône Impérial. D'une autre part, nul ne peut ignorer les exigences de l'ambition excessive de Méhémet Ali, et son obstination à persister, tant sous le règne de Sultan Mahmoud, que sous le règne actuel, dans des prétentions inadmissibles, et dans les voies qui ont provoqué les événements qui se sont accomplis récemment; c'est pourquoi il est superflu d'entrer ici dans aucun détail à ce sujet.

Mais indépendamment de sa conduite antérieure, et même après le Traité heureusement conclu entre la Sublime Porte et les Quatre Puissances, Méhémet Ali s'est opiniâtement maintenu dans son système de résistance, et loin d'avoir eu recours à la clémence souveraine, il ne s'est occupé que de préparatifs de guerre, sans vouloir tenir aucun compte ni des importantes faveurs qui lui étaient assurées par ce Traité, ni de l'impossibilité absolue de le modifier, et fermant les yeux non seulement sur les avantages personnels qu'il aurait recueillis de son acceptation et sur les conséquences fâcheuses auxquelles il s'exposait par un refus, mais encore sur les nombreux succès qui ont couronné nos opérations en Syrie, et sur les répugnances et le mécontentement qu'ont fait éclater contre lui-même les habitants de l'Égypte.

La Sublime Porte, au contraire, a scrupuleusement conformé tous ses actes aux stipulations du Traité, en prononçant, après s'être concertée avec les Représentans des Quatre Puissances, la destitution de Méhémet Ali, qui lui était imposée par l'obligation de garantir ses intérêts présents et à venir.

Aujourd'hui, et après tout ce qui vient d'être exposé, comment pourrions-nous confier de nouveau l'autorité à un homme tel que Méhémet Ali? Toutefois, et quoique le Sultan n'ait pas l'intention de rien accorder, de sa propre volonté, à Méhémet Ali, néanmoins, en cas d'une demande de la part des Grandes Puissances, il est possible que, par déférence pour elles, quelque faveur temporaire lui soit accordée. Mais serait-il possible aujourd'hui de revenir sur la question de l'hérédité, cette grande concession, déjà rejetée par lui, du Traité d'Alliance? Et comment les Quatre Puissances pourraient-elles concilier désormais cette concession avec le maintien de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, qui forme le principal objet de leur sollicitude?

La Sublime Porte vient de déclarer ses intentions formelles au sujet de l'hérédité, et elle a lieu d'espérer que les Quatre Puissances voudront bien se pénétrer de la vérité des raisons qui précèdent, ainsi que de la justice qui milite en sa faveur, et achever l'œuvre qu'elles ont entreprise et dont la Sublime Porte a déjà recueilli les premiers fruits.

Il est important de faire observer encore que si, d'un côté, les forces de terre et de mer du Pacha, à qui sera confié à l'avenir le Gouvernement de l'Égypte, doivent être suffisantes pour la protection du commerce et le maintien de la tranquillité intérieure de la Province, elles doivent aussi, de l'autre, pouvoir se concilier avec ses ressources locales, ainsi qu'avec la sûreté intérieure de l'Empire et les nouvelles institutions que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan y a introduites, et qui devront être également appliquées à l'Égypte, aux termes même du Traité de Londres,—institutions d'après lesquelles les mesures vexatoires exercées jusqu'ici envers les habitants de cette contrée doivent naturellement cesser. C'est pourquoi ce point aussi mérite un examen sérieux.

Vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, porter le contenu de la présente dépêche à la connaissance de Messieurs les Membres de la Conférence.

Inclosure 4 in No. 105.

Rechid Pasha to Viscount Ponscby.

Sublime Porte, le 8 Décembre, 1840.

LA Sublime Porte vient de recevoir une communication de la Convention conclue à Alexandrie, le 27 Novembre dernier, entre le Commodore Napier et Boghos Bey, agissant au nom de Méhémet Ali.

La Sublime Porte ne saurait voir dans cette Convention qu'un acte dérogatoire, et par le fond, et par la forme, aux droits imprescriptibles, et à la dignité de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et contraire même à l'esprit et à la lettre de la Convention signée à Londres le 15 Juillet.—Convention qui implique l'accord et le concours de toutes les Puissances signataires pour la validité de toute démarche, mesure ou acte concernant son exécution. Or la Convention conclue par le Commodore Napier, loin de porter ce caractère d'une décision unanime entre les dites Puissances, et préalablement arrêtée par elles, ne peut et ne doit être considérée que comme un incident isolé, et sans valeur. La Sublime Porte n'a d'ailleurs jamais reçu aucune communication au sujet de l'intention où auraient été les Quatre Puissances, d'après cette même Convention, de recommander à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan de réintégrer Méhémet Ali dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte, et surtout de rendre ce gouvernement héréditaire dans sa famille. Elle se croit en outre fondée à penser qu'alors-même qu'une pareille recommandation aurait été adressée au Sultan, les Puissances ses Alliés n'auraient pas méconnu le droit de Sa Majesté Impériale de se déterminer sur ce point d'après ses intérêts.

En conséquence, la Sublime Porte déclare protester, comme elle proteste par la présente de la manière la plus formelle, contre la Convention conclue le 27 Novembre, par le Commodore Napier, Convention qu'elle doit regarder et qu'elle regarde en effet comme nulle et non avenue.

Et c'est aux fins de faire connaître cette décision de la Sublime Porte que le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, a l'ordre d'adresser la présente note à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Le Soussigné profite de cette occasion, pour renouveler à son Excellence l'assurance de sa haute considération.

(Signé) RECHID.

No. 106.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 1, 1841.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, December 6, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that on the 28th ultimo, Commodore Napier despatched the "Medea" steam frigate to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, with the intelligence of the Convention he had concluded with Mehemet Ali on the basis stated in my last despatch to your Lordship.

On the same day, Commodore Napier, with the ships under his command, quitted the coast—in consequence, I presume, of the stormy state of the weather.

Since that period, no event of any importance has occurred, and Egypt is tranquil.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of the circular letter of Mehemet Ali to the Authorities of Egypt, announcing the restoration of peace.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Circular of Mehemet Ali to the Mudirs and Governors of Egypt.

(Translation.)

AS chance entirely rules the world, peaceable preparations sometimes terminate in war, and warlike preparations sometimes terminate in peace. From the Creation to the present time, such has been the case. The will of God is the great first cause, and the end of all things. God is all powerful.

The stars were from the beginning unfavourable to my late efforts until the Commodore of the Fleet of Her Britannic Majesty arrived, and announced that the Government of Egypt was to be hereditary in my family for the sake of peace. The European Powers have thus determined. Peace is the object of all Governments, and these things have happened to bring back repose, to stop the effusion of Mussulman blood, to satisfy the minds of the people, and allow all to return to their habitual pursuits of commerce or agriculture.

With this view, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Syria has been ordered to retire from that country, and return to Egypt with all his camp, and the slaves of Egypt.

A copy of this letter has been sent to all Governors in Egypt, as well as to you.

No. 107.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 1, 1841.

I ACCIDENTALLY met M. Guizot this evening. He mentioned to me, that he had written three days ago a despatch to Baron Bourqueney, in which he had fully explained the feelings and sentiments of the French Government upon the actual state of affairs in the East. The question between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, he said, had been concluded by the Four Powers without the interference of France, and if any points still remained to be settled respecting the future condition of the Pasha of Egypt, the French Government desired not to be a party to the settlement. The position of the Ottoman Empire relative to the European Powers was however a different question; and one on which, though he was prepared to make no proposition, the French Government would be disposed to enter into consultation with the other Governments, who were interested in maintaining its independence and neutrality. The security of the Christian population of Syria was also a subject well worthy the consideration of the European Powers, and the French Government would be ready, in concert with the other Allies of the Porte, to consider of the means best calculated to obtain that object. I have only time left, before the departure of the messenger to-night, to make this short and hasty report of M. Guizot's conversation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 108.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 5, 1841.)

(No. 288.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 9, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, copy of a note which I have received from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, announcing

that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has given orders that the blockade of the ports and echelles of Syria should be raised.

I also inclose copy of my letter to Her Majesty's Consul-General on this subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

Rechid Pasha to Viscount Ponsonby.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Sublime Porte, le 2 Décembre, 1840.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer, qu'en conséquence de l'occupation définitive par les troupes Ottomanes du littoral de la Syrie, Sa Majesté le Sultan vient d'ordonner la levée du blocus des ports et échelles de ce littoral.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) RECHID.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

Viscount Ponsonby to Mr. Cartwright.

Sir,

Therapia, December 5, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will make known to the British merchants, that I have received from his Excellency the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs an official notification, under date the 2nd instant, stating, that in consequence of the definitive occupation of the coast of Syria by the troops of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the Sublime Porte has ordered the blockade of the ports and echelles of that coast to be raised.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 109.

Lord Clanricarde to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 6, 1841.)

(No. 74.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 22, 1840.

I HAD the honour of an interview with the Emperor yesterday morning, and of a long and confidential conversation with His Imperial Majesty upon a variety of important topics, which the state of affairs in different parts of the world suggests, in the course of which the Emperor repeatedly expressed the warmest feelings of friendship for England, and which naturally turned mostly upon the late events in the Levant and in Egypt.

The Emperor evinced the most lively satisfaction at the manner in which the success of Her Majesty's Forces had brought to a termination the question between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali. The Emperor, however, said he should have considered the conclusion of those operations more completely happy, if Commodore Napier had insisted upon Mehemet Ali's unconditional submission to the Sultan, and had taken his demand of the hereditary Government of Egypt only as a petition to be referred to Constantinople for the unbiassed decision of the Sublime Porte. However, His Imperial Majesty was highly pleased at the success, which had been more rapid than, with the means that were provided, he had anticipated, but of the ultimate attainment of which he had never doubted.

In speaking of the conduct of Austria and Prussia pending these operations, His Imperial Majesty said that allowance must be made for the particular position of those countries, and of their Governments, particularly that of Austria.

The Emperor expressed his great desire that the concord established between the Great Powers who signed the Treaty of the 15th of July, and particularly the Alliance between England and Russia, should be cemented and preserved by every possible means.

I afterwards visited Count Nesselrode, who read to me the heads of the arrangement which your Lordship desired should be adopted, and signed by the Four Powers, and by France, to which, he said, he had not the slightest objection. His Excellency further said that France ought to sign it, in accordance with the collective note presented to the Sultan, and that he trusted she would demand no more. Count Nesselrode expressed great gratification at the sentiments he understands your Lordship to entertain upon the idea of a general guarantee of the integrity of Turkey; and he said that he hoped the honours that the Emperor had conferred upon the Archduke Frederick, Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, and Commodore Napier, would show how entirely absent from the mind of His Imperial Majesty was any feeling of jealousy at the success of the Allied arms without the assistance of a Russian force.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLANRICARDE.

No. 110.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Clanricarde.

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 11, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 74, of the 22nd of December, reporting the language held by the Emperor of Russia respecting the Turco-Egyptian Question, in an interview which you had with His Majesty on the preceding day; and I have to instruct your Excellency to take an opportunity of stating to His Imperial Majesty the gratification afforded to Her Majesty's Government by the sentiments expressed by him on this occasion; and to assure him, that it is the sincere wish of Her Majesty's Government that the Alliance between England and Russia, so happily cemented by recent events, may long continue, and may not only tend to the welfare and prosperity of the two countries, but may also contribute powerfully to maintain the peace of the world.

Your Excellency will assure His Imperial Majesty, that the honours which he has conferred upon the British naval officers employed in the recent operations in the Levant, have been the source of extreme gratification to Her Majesty's Government, as affording a striking proof of the friendly feelings of the Emperor towards England, and as being a public manifestation of the cordiality with which the Emperor has co-operated with Her Majesty in the execution of the Treaty of July.

Your Excellency should also say, that Her Majesty's Government appreciate very highly the sound judgment with which the Emperor has acted in the whole of these transactions; for there cannot be a doubt that the powerful naval and military force, which the Emperor has kept in reserve to be ready to act in case of need, has essentially contributed to the successful result which has been obtained; while the circumstance that those forces have been kept in reserve, and have not prematurely been brought into action, has prevented some political difficulties which might otherwise by possibility have arisen.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 111.

John Barrow, Esq. to Lord Leveson.—(Received January 15.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, January 11, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated the 1st of December last, No. 147, and its inclosures, relative to the Convention entered into with Mehemet Ali by Commodore Sir Charles Napier.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

Sir,

*"Princess Charlotte," St. George's Bay,
Beyrout, December 1, 1840.*

I BEG to transmit for their Lordships' information the copy of a Convention, which Commodore Napier has entered into with Mehemet Ali, the correspondence leading thereto having been transmitted by him from Alexandria.

I beg you will further acquaint their Lordships, that I do not feel myself authorized to enter into this Convention; and the Egyptian troops being already on their retreat by the Mecca road to Egypt, I cannot consider this as a concession from Mehemet, but the consequence of their late discomfitures, and the inimical state of the country towards them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD.
Admiral.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

[See Inclosure 11 in No. 87, p. 79.]

No. 112.

John Barrow, Esq. to Lord Leveson.—(Received January 16.)

My Lord,

Admiralty, January 16, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, to be laid before Viscount Palmerston, copies of two letters from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, dated at Marmorice the 14th of last month; the first transmitting the report from Captain Fanshawe, who was sent to negotiate with Mehemet Ali, of his proceedings on that service, with a copy of the engagement entered into by the latter, and other papers; the second transmitting a copy of Commodore Napier's reply to a letter from the Admiral upon the subject of the unauthorized Convention concluded by the Commodore.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall Esq.

*"Princess Charlotte,"
Marmorice, December 14, 1840.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 10th instant, No. 152, I beg you will be pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that Captain Fanshawe arrived here this morning in the "Megæra" from Alexandria, with the written engagement by Mehemet Ali, a translation of which I inclose herewith, as well as of that officer's report to me, of his proceedings on the service upon which he was ordered; and I have immediately despatched him in the "Stromboli," to Constantinople, in the further fulfilment of Viscount Palmerston's instructions.

I hope their Lordships will agree with me, that Captain Fanshawe has shown great judgment and firmness in his proceedings in this important negotiation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Captain Fanshawe to Admiral Stopford.

*Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Megæra," at Sea,
December 12, 1840.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you my proceedings in the service on which you ordered me.

I arrived off Alexandria in this vessel early on the morning of the 8th, and finding no English man-of-war off the place, proceeded into the port, and sent for Mr. Larking, Her Majesty's Consul, whom I requested to inform Mehemet Ali that I was charged by you to make a communication to him from Her Majesty's Government, and for which purpose I demanded an interview with him in the presence of Boghos Bey.

At noon I went to the Palace with Mr. Larking, and had an audience with Mehemet Ali: after delivering your letter to him and passing a few compliments, I read to him my extract, a copy of which I inclose, from Lord Palmerston's instructions, which was interpreted to him by his Dragoman, and then presented to him, expressing my hope that his compliance with what it required would restore a good understanding between the Sultan and himself. He alluded to the recent Convention, and said he had promised all this before to Commodore Napier, if Egypt was guaranteed to him, and that he never departed from his word.

I replied, I had no guarantee to offer; but he would perceive that, though you had not been able to ratify that Convention, you had lost no time in communicating the instructions received from your Government, and in expressing your own disposition to conciliate; and that I hoped he would merit the wish which I knew you had expressed, and take some immediate steps for the restitution of the Turkish fleet, which I regretted to observe was making no preparation for sea; that the words in my note with reference to the fleet were "immediate," and "without delay;" and I was sure his giving directions for that part of it which could be most expeditiously equipped proceeding to you at Marmorice, would be regarded in a favourable light, both at London and at Constantinople.

Mehemet Ali said earnestly, he had always wished to give the fleet up to his master; that I might pledge myself that it should be ready to deliver to me, or to any officer that might be sent by the Porte to take charge of it, and that he would send his own officers and men to assist in navigating it, if he was reinstated in Egypt; adding, if I give up the

fleet, what security have I, having already given orders for the evacuation of all the places referred to?

I told him he must look for his security in the good faith and friendly disposition of the English Government, and in the influence it might have with the Sultan and the Allied Powers. He seemed rather disposed to yield on this point, but gave no positive answer. I then stated that my time was limited; he said he had no wish for delay. The documents which I had given him should be forthwith translated, and brought again under his consideration, and that I should have his answer in French to take to you as soon as possible. I replied, I was authorized to take his final answer to Constantinople, and that I must be furnished with his written engagement to convey thither; and as I concluded it would be written in Turkish, I must have a translation of it also, that I might be satisfied it contained all that was required. This was immediately assented to, Mehemet Ali saying, he was always ready to make his submission to the Sultan, and that he would promise all that was asked, if he was allowed to remain quiet in Egypt. This ended the Conference.

In the evening Mr. Larking and myself had an interview by appointment with Boghos Bey, who said it was Mehemet Ali's desire to meet the views of the Allied Powers, and that he was pleased with the English mediation, but that he considered that he had already the promise of the hereditary Government of Egypt, and he was afraid there would be difficulties raised at Constantinople, and that there was one Power (Russia) not so well disposed to see such a termination to the Question. I told Boghos Bey, that he must be aware the Allied Powers could not regard Mehemet Ali since his deposition by the Sultan in the same light as before, and that he must make his submission; and that I was sure, if he would without delay send such part of the Turkish fleet as could be got ready to Marmorice, it must tend to conciliate all parties, and be a proof of the entire sincerity of his intentions.

I then called his attention to the limit of my stay at Alexandria, and to the necessity that the written engagement I was to receive should be so worded that I could not hesitate to convey it. Boghos assured me he would use his influence to prevent any obstacle; that he was to attend a Council with Mehemet Ali directly, at which the translated copies would be discussed and the answer decided upon, which he thought would be quite satisfactory. This Council, however, I learnt was not so harmonious as Boghos Bey expected, and nothing was then decided. On the following morning (Wednesday) Mr. Larking received a summons, and had an interview with Mehemet Ali and Boghos Bey, which was more favourable; and I was informed I might expect a translation of the engagement early on the following day, and that it would contain all that was asked; but Mr. Larking did not find Mehemet Ali disposed to let any part of the fleet go first,—a point which I had requested him to urge again, saying, they all came, and should all go together. I did not, however, receive the translations of the letters to the Vizier and yourself, which I now inclose, until ten o'clock yesterday morning, but then accompanied by a notice that Mehemet Ali was ready to receive me. On perusing the letter to the Vizier, it appeared to me to be so complete an engagement, in all points required, without any especial stipulation about Egypt, and that though the terms of submission might be somewhat equivocal, it came within the view of Lord Palmerston's instructions, and that I could not hesitate to be the bearer of it. I therefore repaired to the Palace with Mr. Larking, and had, I consider, a satisfactory interview with Mehemet Ali. I pointed out to him that I did not feel that the expressions in his letter to the Vizier, relating to the fleet, came up to the promise which he had made me the other day, and that I saw no appearance yet of preparation, and that I or some one else might return very soon to claim the fulfilment of that pledge. Mehemet Ali said he had given orders already on the subject, and repeated earnestly that the fleet should be ready to quit the port, as far as he was concerned, five days after the arrival of the officer to whom the Sultan wished it to be delivered.

I then remarked that on the subject of Candia there might be some delay, as I understood the Pasha there had not submitted to the Sultan;

and as I thought it probable the Porte might be prepared to send troops immediately to take possession of that island, I proposed that I should be the bearer of a letter to the Pasha of Candia, directing him to yield it to the Turkish Authorities; to which Mehemet Ali immediately assented, and ordered one to be written. I hope these points, therefore, may be taken as an earnest of his sincerity, though I am quite of opinion, that unless the Sultan gives him the hereditary Pashalick of Egypt, he will be very much disposed to fight for it—or, at any rate, to give further trouble. This letter to the Pasha of Candia being ready, I received it with those to the Vizier and yourself (all which I herewith transmit), all under flying seals, from Mehemet Ali's hands, and took my leave of him. Boghos Bey then requested to speak with me on one or two subjects, by Mehemet Ali's desire, which were—1st. His wish to be allowed to send some of his steam-vessels to Gaza or El Arish to receive the sick, wounded, women and children of Ibrahim Pasha's army who might be entering Egypt by that route, and who would be thus spared a painful and tedious march, saying that Commodore Napier's Treaty embraced that subject. I replied, that though you had not been able to confirm the Commodore's Convention, you would, I was sure, for the cause of humanity, be now ready to meet Mehemet Ali's wish, and that I would communicate with the senior officer of our ships off the port on the subject, who would allow vessels, going strictly for that purpose, to pass freely. 2ndly. That in case of any of our ships of war coming to the port, the commanders should be desired to conform rigidly to the Quarantine regulations. I told him they always had, and always would do so, and reminded him of the Quarantine you had passed yourself in August, and said that whatever our Consul told the captains was required by the regulations of the port would be abided by; for Mr. Larking had an idea that they might contemplate some new regulations which might affect the ships or officers to be sent down for the Turkish fleet.

At 1 P.M. yesterday we sailed from Alexandria, and off the port communicated with Her Majesty's ship "Carysfort," and I delivered to Captain Martin two letters (copies of which I inclose) which I had thought it right to address to the senior officer of Her Majesty's ships off Alexandria, and of which I hope you will approve; we are now proceeding to join your flag at Marmorice.

I cannot close this report, without expressing how much I benefited by Mr. Larking's ready and cordial assistance, and by the information I was able to obtain from him, and also from the zeal and attention of Mr. John Chumarian, the Dragoman.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

P.S.—We left the "Ambuscade," small French frigate, a corvette, and steam-vessel at Alexandria; the latter, I understand, was to start for France to-day; the "Bourgainville," brig, sailed for Beyrout the day of our arrival.

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

Free Translation of a Letter from the Viceroy to the Grand Vizier.

Altesse,

LE Commodore Napier, commandant les forces Britanniques devant Alexandrie, m'a prévenu par une lettre du 22 Novembre dernier, que les Grandes Puissances Alliées avaient demandé à la Sublime Porte qu'elle m'octroyât le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte sous la condition que je tiendrais la flotte Ottomane prête à être restituée et que je ferais retirer mes troupes de la Syrie. Après une correspondance engagée à ce sujet

avec le Commodore, ces conditions ont été acceptées, et une Convention a été conclue et signée avec la perspective pour ma part que la faveur de Sa Hautesse se répandrait sur moi. J'avais en conséquence déjà écrit à mon fils Ibrahim Pacha de se replier sur Egypte avec ses troupes, les employés civils, et le matériel réunis à Damas; et un exprès avait même à cet effet été expédié en Syrie sur un bateau à vapeur Anglais par les soins du Commodore.

Maintenant son Excellence l'Amiral Sir Robert Stopford, Commandant-en-Chef de la flotte Anglaise, me fait connaître par une lettre datée du 6 Décembre courant, datée devant Chypre, qu'il a reçu une dépêche officielle de Lord Palmerston avec des instructions, en vertu desquelles il m'invite à faire ma soumission à la Sublime Porte, en restituant la flotte Ottomane, et en évacuant la Syrie, Adana, Candie, l'Arabie, et les Villes Saintes.

Toujours disposé à faire le sacrifice de ce que je possède, et de ma vie même, pour me concilier les bonnes grâces de Sa Hautesse, et reconnaissant de ce que par l'intervention des Puissances Alliées la faveur de mon Souverain m'est rendue, j'ai pris des dispositions pour que la flotte Ottomane soit remise à telle personne et de telle manière qu'il plaira à Sa Hautesse d'ordonner.

Les troupes qui se trouvent à Candie, en Arabie, et dans les Villes Saintes sont prêtes à se retirer, et l'évacuation en aura lieu sans délai aussitôt que l'ordre de mon Souverain me sera parvenu. Quant à la Syrie et au district d'Adana, j'ai appris par une lettre d'Ibrahim Pacha datée des derniers jours de Ramazan, et parvenue par la voie de terre, qu'il avait dû quitter Damas le 3 ou 4 de Chewal avec toute l'armée pour rentrer en Egypte.

La Syrie est par conséquent évacuée en totalité, et par là, mon acte d'obéissance se trouve accompli.

Ces faits parvenant à la connaissance de votre Altesse, j'espère, qu'en les exposant à notre Souverain et maître elle intercédera auprès de Sa Hautesse pour appeler ses faveurs sur le plus ancien et le plus fidèle de ses serviteurs.

Inclosure 4 in No. 112.

Translation of Mehemet Ali's Letter to Mustapha Pasha of Candia.

December 11.

AS I wrote to you before, we are already negotiating the case now again from the part of his Excellency Sir Robert Stopford; he has sent me officially the hereditary Pashalic of Egypt, from the part of the Allies, which they recommend to the Porte; and the Island of Candia ought to be evacuated.

I am waiting the orders from the Porte; and you ought to be prepared ready; and as soon as I receive, I send you several ships of war, and you embark everything and come here.

Inclosure 5 in No. 112.

Translation of a Circular of Mehemet Ali to the Mudirs and Governors of Egypt.

[See Inclosure in No. 106, p. 108.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 112.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

"Princess Charlotte,"

Marmorice, December 14, 1840.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 10th instant, No. 152, I transmit herewith Commodore Napier's reply to my letter to him, disapproving of the unauthorized Convention he had made with Mehemet Ali, in explanation of his motives for so doing.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Inclosure 7 in No. 112.

Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.

Her Majesty's ship "Powerful,"
Marmorice, December 14, 1840.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd of December, disapproving of the Convention I had entered into with the Egyptian Government for the evacuation of Syria and the surrender of the fleet. I have only to regret, that what I did with the best intentions, and believed to be in accordance with the views of the Allies, should not have met your approbation.

I beg to assure you, that it was not from any want of respect to you that I did not communicate with you before signing it, but it was under the impression that it was of the utmost importance to seize the opportunity, when the Pasha was highly incensed against France, to bring him, without loss of time, to terms without the mediation of that Power.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of the copy of a letter you have sent me from Lord Ponsonby, the original of which, I presume, is gone to Alexandria, and I beg to inclose you a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

No. 113.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 8, 1841.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, December 22, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that on the 8th instant, Captain Fanshawe, of Her Majesty's ship "Princess Charlotte," arrived here.

He brought me a letter from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, in which he requested me to assist Captain Fanshawe in obtaining the object of his mission by all the means in my power.

By the same opportunity I learnt with no little surprise, that the arrangement so lately entered into by Commodore Napier, was totally unauthorised either by the Commander-in-chief, or Her Majesty's Government, and that consequently the Convention signed by the Commodore was null and void.

I regret exceedingly that under such circumstances I should have been instrumental in aiding Commodore Napier, but I trust your Lordship will overlook any irregularity on my part in having lent myself to forward his views, when I assure your Lordship that I did so, under the firm con-

viction that the Commodore was duly authorised to treat with Mehemet Ali, and that it was my duty to assist him.

I never supposed that an officer of Commodore Napier's standing, commanding so formidable a force, and coming direct from the Admiral, would have opened negotiations of so important a nature, unless instructed to do so.

At the desire of Captain Fanshawe, I waited on Mehemet Ali, announced his arrival, explained the nature of his mission, and requested him to name an hour for receiving that officer. Mehemet Ali appeared surprised, and at first objected to Conferences with Captain Fanshawe, stating that he had accepted the proposals of Commodore Napier in good faith, and in full reliance on his powers, seeing that he was at the head of a squadron which might be brought at any time to act against him; the Convention he had concluded with him being a sufficient proof of his submission to the Sultan, and of his desire to meet the views of the Four Powers. He stated, however, that he should be happy to see Captain Fanshawe, and named 12 o'clock on the same day for the interview, at which hour that officer waited on him accompanied by myself.

Captain Fanshawe then read his Instructions, with extracts of a despatch from your Lordship to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, (copies of which he furnished to Boghos Bey,) and laid great stress on the immediate and unconditional restitution of the Ottoman Fleet, or even of some ships, as an earnest of his submission to his Sovereign the Sultan.

To this Mehemet Ali answered in general terms, and stated that he had always intended to restore the fleet, but that he should cause the documents immediately to be translated, and having taken the subject into consideration, would give his answer on the following evening.

On the same day Mehemet Ali called a council, and having described the nature of Captain Fanshawe's mission, he expressed great unwillingness to re-open negotiations which he considered closed, and in this feeling he was warmly supported by Artin Bey.

On the following day I saw Boghos Bey, and urged him to use his influence with Mehemet Ali to wave all tenacious adherence to the Convention of Commodore Napier, and make such immediate concession as would strengthen those claims on the moderation of the Sultan, which he considered he had acquired by his assent to the proposals of that officer. Boghos Bey in reply stated, that he lay under great difficulty in this respect, as he had to contend with the unfavourable predisposition with which Mehemet Ali was imbued, in finding the arrangement he had made with Commodore Napier so soon nullified, but that nevertheless he would do his best to induce him to accede to the conditions of Captain Fanshawe, and concluded by engaging me to accompany him on the following day to Mehemet Ali, which I accordingly did.

Mehemet Ali, at this second interview, repeated the expression of his surprise that an engagement just concluded should be considered invalid, and that he saw no termination to a negotiation which every day led to fresh demands. I replied that no one could more deeply regret than I did, having been a party in advising him to accept the conditions offered by Commodore Napier, for which, as it appeared in the sequel, he did not possess adequate authority; but that he must be aware that the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government was in spirit nearly resembling that which led to the arrangement that had been entered into with Commodore Napier, and merely engaged him promptly to execute those measures which he had repeatedly declared it was his intention to adopt. To this Mehemet Ali replied, that the present recommendation was different, in as much as that by the former arrangement his position was secured, whereas by this he was entirely at the mercy of the Sultan.

I then said that for the Four Powers to guarantee him the Pashalic of Egypt, would be an act inconsistent with that independence of Turkey, which it was the main object of the Alliance to secure; but that he might rest assured that any recommendation founded on his prompt and unconditional compliance with the wishes of the Four Powers, would unquestionably have its due effect with the Sublime Porte, and infallibly lead to that formal guarantee for which he appeared so solicitous.

Mehemet Ali then said that with regard to Captain Fanshawe's proposal that he should deliver up a portion of the fleet, that would be a half measure, and might be construed into a desire to procrastinate that unconditional surrender of the fleet which would take place as soon as he received an order from the Sultan stating to whom he was to deliver it over. That he submitted himself to the will of the Sultan, and threw himself on his generosity. As regarded the evacuation of Syria, it had already taken place, and as regarded Candia and the Holy Cities, he was prepared to address a letter to the Grand Vizier, in accordance with what was required of him.

I reported this to Captain Fanshawe, who said that this answer was not in the form he expected, or according to the letter of his instructions; that he would however be satisfied, and be the bearer of a letter to the Vizier if conformable to the above declaration.

This letter, as well as one to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, of both of which I have the honour to inclose translations, were prepared and delivered to Captain Fanshawe, along with an order to the Commander of the Egyptian troops in Candia, immediately to effect the evacuation of that Island.

Captain Fanshawe took his departure from hence for Marmorice, on the 12th instant, in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Megara."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

His Highness the Vice-Roy to His Highness the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

Altesse,

LE Commodore Napier, commandant les forces Britanniques devant Alexandrie, m'a prévenu par une lettre du 22 Novembre dernier, que les Grandes Puissances Alliées avaient demandé à la Sublime Porte qu'elle m'octroyât le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte sous la condition que je tiendrais la Flotte Ottomane prête à être restituée et que je ferais retirer mes troupes de la Syrie. Après une correspondance engagée à ce sujet avec le Commodore Napier, ces conditions ont été acceptées, et une Convention a été conclue et signée, avec la perspective pour ma part, que la faveur de Sa Hautesse se répandrait sur moi. J'avais en conséquence déjà écrit à mon fils Ibrahim Pacha, de se replier vers l'Egypte avec les troupes, les employés civils, et le matériel réuni à Damas, et un exprès avait même à cet effet été expédié en Syrie, sur un bateau à vapeur Anglais par les soins du Commodore.

Maintenant, son Excellence l'Amiral Sir Robert Stopford, Commandant-en-Chef de la Flotte Anglaise, me fait connaître par une lettre datée du 6 Decembre courant devant Chypres, qu'il a reçu une dépêche officielle de Lord Palmerston, avec des instructions, en vertu desquelles il m'invite à faire ma soumission à la Sublime Porte, en restituant la Flotte Ottomane, et en évacuant la Syrie, Adana, Candie, l'Arabie, et les Villes Saintes.

Toujours disposé à faire le sacrifice de tout ce que je possède et de ma vie même, pour me concilier les bonnes grâces de Sa Hautesse, et reconnaissant de ce que, par l'intervention des Puissances Alliées, la faveur de mon Souverain m'est rendue, j'ai pris des dispositions pour que la Flotte Ottomane soit remise à telle personne, et de telle manière, qu'il plaira à Sa Hautesse d'ordonner.

Les troupes qui se trouvent à Candie, en Arabie, et dans les Villes Saintes, sont prêtes à se retirer, et l'évacuation en aura lieu sans délai aussitôt que l'ordre de mon Souverain me sera parvenu. Quant à la Syrie, et au district d'Adana, j'ai pris par une lettre d'Ibrahim Pacha, datée des derniers jours de Ramazan, et parvenue par la voie de terre, qu'il avait

dû quitter Damas le 3 ou le 4 Chewal, avec toute l'armée, pour rentrer en Egypte. La Syrie est par conséquent évacuée en totalité, et par là, mon acte d'obéissance se trouve accompli.

Ces faits parvenant à la connaissance de Votre Altesse, j'espère qu'en les exposant à notre Souverain et Maître, elle intercédera auprès de Sa Hautesse pour appeler ses faveurs sur le plus ancien et le plus fidèle de ses serviteurs.

(Signé) MEHEMET ALI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

His Highness the Vice-Roy to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

(Traduction.)

Très-honorable Amiral Sir Robert Stopford,

J'AI reçu les deux lettres que vous m'avez adressées, la première par l'entremise de Hamid Bey, qui avait été chargé d'une dépêche pour mon fils Ibrahim Pacha, et la seconde par le Commandant Fanshawe, Capitaine de votre Vaisseau Amiral. Je suis charmé de l'amitié que vous me témoignez, et m'empresse d'agir dans le sens que vous m'indiquez dans votre dépêche officielle. J'adresse en conséquence un placet sous cachet volant à la Sublime Porte, et pour que le contenu vous en soit connu j'y joins la traduction en Français. J'espère que ma condescendance sera appréciée par les Puissances Alliées, et en vous demandant la continuation de votre amitié, je me flatte que vos bons offices m'assureront leur bienveillance.

(Signé) MEHEMET ALI.

No. 114.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 8, 1841.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, December 22, 1840.

HAVING received intelligence that partial disorders had broken out in Mount Lebanon, which were attributed to the presence of Ibrahim Pasha at Damascus, I informed Boghos Bey of the fact, which led to Mehemet Ali addressing a letter to Sir Robert Stopford on the subject.

A letter which I wrote to Sir Robert Stopford, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, will acquaint your Lordship with all that passed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Mr. Consul Larking to Sir Robert Stopford.

Sir,

Alexandria, December 21, 1840.

BY Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Hydra," which arrived here on the 17th instant, I learnt that Ibrahim Pasha had not evacuated Syria, and that on the 7th December the Egyptian troops were still at Damascus, although it was supposed they were on the point of leaving that city.

As this state of affairs is totally at variance with the information your Excellency had given to Mehemet Ali, and in contradiction to the declaration he had lately made to the Vizier, that Syria was already evacuated; I lost no time in calling the attention of Boghos Bey to the fact, urging him to use his influence with Mehemet Ali, to induce him to forward to your Excellency an order to Ibrahim Pasha for the immediate

and unconditional evacuation. I pointed out to him the certainty of a stop being put to negotiations at Constantinople, so soon as the news arrived that Ibrahim Pasha was still at Damascus, after his father's formal declaration to the contrary, and that if any collision should unfortunately take place between the Turkish and Egyptian forces, it might be attributed to a desire on the part of Ibrahim Pasha still to avail himself of the chances of war, and that such a supposition, although it might be erroneous, must prove most disadvantageous to the interests of Mehemet Ali.

Boghos Bey assured me that no such views were entertained by Mehemet Ali after the solemn declaration he had made, but that I was aware that for a considerable time Mehemet Ali had had no communication with his son, and that the only intelligence he had had of the movements of his army, was contained in a letter from your Excellency by which he was led to suppose that the evacuation was not only commenced, but completed. I replied that this assurance must have been given in the full persuasion of its correctness, but I remarked, that so soon as your Excellency would hear that it had not taken place, you would be the first to demand an order for the immediate and unconditional evacuation of Syria, and this order being promptly and spontaneously given, would be interpreted into a desire on the part of Mehemet Ali to remove all difficulties on the subject. I made use of other arguments, all of which Boghos Bey requested me to put in writing, in order that he might submit the same for the consideration of Mehemet Ali.

I did this, and on the following day received a communication from Boghos Bey, to the effect that Mehemet Ali was entirely ignorant of the movements of Ibrahim Pasha, and felt convinced that the intelligence I received was not altogether correct; that should your Excellency deem it expedient he could have no hesitation in giving the order, but that in the mean time he proposed sending an officer to Beyrout, who should be allowed to proceed to Damascus, being the bearer of a copy of his letter to the Vizier, and make known to Ibrahim Pasha his intentions regarding the evacuation of Syria, and at the same time make arrangements for the transport by sea of the sick, wounded, and women, whom it would be impossible to remove by the overland route.

I remarked that such a proceeding would be totally irregular, as the commanding officer at Beyrout would never allow the passage of his Envoy, unless authorised by the Commander-in-chief, and that whatever communication he thought proper to make, must be made through your Excellency, and again urged him to waive all pretexts which might be interpreted into a desire to procrastinate, and at once to give the order in question.

On the same evening I had another communication from Boghos Bey, in which he said that Mehemet Ali based his declaration on the statement made by your Excellency, and which statement had never been officially contradicted, but that the moment he heard from your Excellency that Ibrahim Pasha was still in Syria, he would not hesitate to furnish you with an order for the immediate and unconditional departure of the Egyptian troops from Syria.

Foreseeing that further discussion would be unprofitable and productive of loss of time, I requested that a letter might be addressed to your Excellency, containing the intentions of Mehemet Ali, which I have now the honour to inclose.

I request that after perusal of this letter, your Excellency will favour me with your instructions how to proceed, and I have no hesitation in saying, that as soon as they are made known, I shall have no difficulty in carrying them into effect.

You will perceive, that till an official contradiction arrives of the intelligence above alluded to, Mehemet Ali has a plea for refusing to take any further steps, the non-necessity of which had been pointed out to him by your Excellency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

Sub-inclosure in No. 114.

Boghos Joussouf to Sir Robert Stopford.

Monsieur l'Amiral,

Alexandrie, le 21 Decembre, 1840.

VOTRE Excellence a pu se convaincre, à la lecture de la lettre adressée par le Vice-Roi mon maître à Son Altesse le Grand Vizir, que nous avons été indirectement informés par une lettre, voie de terre, et datée des derniers jours de Ramazan, que Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha se proposait d'opérer sa retraite de Damas, le 3 ou le 4 de Chewal, présent mois, pour rentrer en Egypte avec toute son armée. Cette nouvelle s'est d'ailleurs trouvée confirmée par les renseignements parvenus à votre Excellence, et en conséquence desquelles vous avez jugé à propos, M. l'Amiral, de renvoyer à Alexandrie Hamid Bey, qui, conformément aux clauses de la Convention conclue avec le Commodore Napier, avait été expédié à votre Excellence avec des dépêches pour Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha. Mr. Larking m'ayant toutefois fait connaître que d'après les informations qui lui avaient été transmises par le bateau à vapeur, sur lequel M. le Général Smith est arrivé à Alexandrie, on pouvait attribuer l'état de rébellion qui ne cesse de se manifester dans certaines parties du Liban, contre l'autorité de la Sublime Porte, au séjour prolongé du Général-en-Chef Egyptien en Damas, et m'ayant exprimé l'opinion qu'il serait convenable d'expédier itérativement à Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha l'ordre d'évacuer la Syrie, je me suis empressé de soumettre cet avis au Vice-Roi. Son Altesse ayant bien voulu le prendre en considération, m'a ordonné de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que les communications par terre avec la Syrie sont complètement interrompues, par suite de l'état de trouble et d'anarchie dans lequel est pour le moment plongée cette Province, et qu'il lui paraît impossible par cette voie de tenir Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha au courant du résultat des dernières négociations. Son Altesse rappelle en outre à votre Excellence que le retour de Hamid Bey, qui avait été précédemment chargé de transmettre ses ordres au Général-en-Chef, ne lui a pas laissé la ressource d'une autre voie de communication. En présence de ces difficultés, le Vice-Roi désire que dans le cas où les appréhensions de Mr. Larking seraient fondées, et dans le cas aussi où il resterait à votre Excellence un moyen quelconque de communiquer avec le Quartier-Général Egyptien, vous veuillez bien, M. l'Amiral, envoyer à Alexandrie un bateau à vapeur, pour porter de nouveau en Syrie Hamid Bey, ainsi que l'officier Anglais chargé par votre Excellence de le seconder dans sa mission auprès d'Ibrahim Pacha.

Votre Excellence se trouvant en position de prendre une idée juste de l'état actuel des choses en Syrie, je la prie de me faire l'honneur de me transmettre, le plutôt possible, son opinion sur ce point important, afin que nous puissions promptement y conformer nos démarches ultérieures.

Je saisis, &c.,

(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

No. 115.

Mr. Consul Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 8, 1841.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, December 23, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have just been informed that M. Cochelet has received despatches from Count Rattimenton, French Consul at Damascus, stating that Ibrahim and Solyman Pashas have concentrated their troops at Damascus, amounting in all to 40,000 men, with 20,000 camp followers, and that with this force they could defy the efforts of the Allies to expel them from Syria.

I have no means of knowing whether or not this statement is founded on truth, but I have considered it important that your Lordship should be made acquainted with the circumstance.

I have &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 116.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 14, 1841.)

(No. 297.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 15, 1840

RECHID PASHA has informed me, that the Sultan has read your Lordship's despatch to Earl Granville of the 2nd of November*, and that His Majesty has expressed the great pleasure it gave him, as a vindication of his Sovereign right.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 117.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 14, 1841.)

(No. 298.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 16, 1840.

THE "Stromboli" has this moment arrived from Alexandria, and Captain Fanshawe, the officer employed by the Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, has brought a letter from Mehemet Ali to be delivered to the Grand Vizier, of which I inclose a translation given to me by Captain Fanshawe†.

I have sent notice of the arrival of Captain Fanshawe to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and requested that he may be admitted to the Grand Vizier to deliver the letter from Mehemet Ali.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 118.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 14, 1841.)

(No. 300. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 15, 1840.

ON the 12th, his Excellency Rechid Pasha informed me that he had had a conversation with M. Cor, the French Dragoman, to the following effect:—

M. Cor, speaking to the Pasha of the note sent by the Sublime Porte to the Four Representatives upon the subject of Commodore Napier's Convention, said that the Porte was in the right to protest against the form of that act, but not against its substance; that the act was generally approved of, particularly because it seemed likely to bring about a nearer connection between France and the Powers, parties to the Convention of the 15th of July; that the Porte might yet repent of acting as it did towards France, her most ancient ally; that the self-love of France was engaged in the question, and that means must be found, or some engagement made, in which France could take part.

The Pasha replied, that as the Sublime Porte found the form of the Convention as bad as the substance was contrary to the interests of his Highness the Sultan, it was the duty of the Porte to act as it had done;—

* See Part II., No. 300, p. 327.

† See Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

"You say," continued the Pasha, "that it is necessary to make an engagement of which France may be an integral part; we have only two propositions to make, and both are diametrically opposed to the policy adopted by France; namely, either the total and absolute submission of Mehemet Ali as a subject, and not as a vassal, or, his annihilation. How is it that you pretend to have at heart the integrity and the independence of the Ottoman Empire, when you seek to partition it? if you are so anxious for the preservation of Mehemet Ali, you have only to appoint him Governor of one of your provinces."

"However," said M. Cor, "Egypt and some other provinces might well be given to Mehemet Ali, without making a partition of the empire." The Pasha replied, "Mehemet Ali is a rebel subject, and consequently his Sovereign is bound to treat him as such; but if he should submit as a simple subject, perhaps, in that case, he might be treated with generosity; but, at any rate, so long as Mehemet Ali exists, so long the friendship of France will be divided between the subject and the Sovereign; and as we are anxious that friendship should be exclusively for us, Mehemet Ali must be annihilated."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 119.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 14, 1841.)

(No. 301.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 16, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I received this day from Commodore Napier, and my reply to it.

Her Majesty's Government will censure me if I have conducted myself improperly in the high post I have had the honour to occupy by the grace of my Sovereign, but if I have not been a faulty servant of Her Majesty, I have a right to hope for the support of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 119.

Commodore Napier to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

*Her Majesty's Ship "Powerful,"
Marmorice Bay, December 14, 1840.*

THE Commander-in-Chief has sent me a copy of a letter addressed to me by your Lordship, the original of which, I presume, has been sent to Alexandria; this letter states that the Porte had made a formal protest against my acts, and that the Convention is null and void, in which your Lordship and your Colleagues entirely concur, and you call upon me to abstain from carrying it into execution.

In reply to which, I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that I never had the least idea that the Convention could be carried into execution without the authority of the Porte and the Commander-in-Chief, to whom the whole correspondence was addressed; therefore I cannot see the necessity of the formal protest of the Porte against my acts.

The Convention simply tied down Mehemet Ali to abandon Syria immediately, and give up the Turkish fleet, when the Porte acknowledged his hereditary title to govern Egypt; and on these conditions, I agreed to suspend hostilities.

I was led to believe, from Lord Palmerston's letter to your Lordship, that I had followed up the views of the Allied Powers. I was led to believe, by letters I have received from different members of the Govern-

ment, that they were most anxious to settle the Eastern Question speedily. I was led to believe, from your Lordship's correspondence, that France had ordered us not even to think of Egypt (your exact expression), and that Lord Palmerston was anxious to finish everything—that he had not good information about Egypt, but that your Lordship thought if I was at liberty to act, Alexandria would not long be in the possession of Mehemet Ali; and this opinion your Lordship risked, though you had never seen the place, and confessed yourself entirely ignorant of the art of war.

I saw clearly that your Lordship had erroneous impressions about Alexandria, and I was convinced that nothing could be done against it without a military force, and at a proper season, and my being driven off the coast has confirmed that opinion.

I further know that the French Consul-General and other French Agents at Alexandria were doing all they could to prevent Mehemet Ali from submitting, still holding out hopes of assistance from France.

Under all these circumstances, I thought I was serving my country and the cause of the Sultan, in tying down Mehemet Ali to immediately evacuate Syria, and give up the Turkish fleet when acknowledged; and I knew perfectly well that Convention did not tie down the Sultan; and I firmly believe that if Thiers' Ministry had not fallen, all I have done would have been approved, and I think it still will be approved.

I have thought it necessary to make these explanations to your Lordship; and I beg, at the same time, to observe that it appears to me that your Lordship has assumed a tone, in the latter part of your letter, that you are by no means authorized to do.

I know my duty to Her Majesty full as well as your Lordship, and I have always done it; and it is the Commander-in-Chief alone who has the right to point out to me how I am to act; and I trust, should your Lordship have any further occasion to address me, it will be done in a different style.

I have sent a copy of this to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, and I trust your Lordship will send a copy to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Inclosure 2 in No. 119.

Viscount Ponsonby to Commodore Napier.

Sir, *Therapia, December 16, 1840.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated December the 14th. I have inclosed it for Her Majesty's Government, with whom it rests, so far as I am concerned, to decide how far I have or have not acted in conformity with my public duty.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 120.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 16, 1841.)

(No. 303.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 18, 1840.

I ENQUIRED of Admiral Walker how soon it would be possible for the Ottoman fleet to be delivered up to the Sultan. He said, that with the aid of British ships and men, it might be prepared, and conducted to Candia, in the course of three weeks or so, but that it could not be risked

in the Archipelago. That it is nearly rotten and good for very little, or perhaps nothing; and that the Sultan would do much better with some fine steamers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 121.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 16, 1841.)

(No. 304.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 22, 1840.

IN my despatch No. 298, I reported the arrival of Captain Fanshawe, and the request I made to the Grand Vizier to allow the Captain to present Mehemet Ali's letter to His Highness. I have now to acquaint your Lordship that the interview took place on the 18th instant, when Captain Fanshawe, accompanied by Captains Williams and Codrington, waited on the Vizier, and gave him the letter, and Captain Fanshawe made observations in corroboration of the statements it contained, which your Lordship will find, as well as the reply made by the Grand Vizier, in the inclosed paper.

I consider it my duty to inform your Lordship, that my Colleagues and others seemed to have disapproved of my having allowed Captain Fanshawe to carry the letter to the Grand Vizier. They say, that no body but an accredited Minister ought to have performed diplomatic functions. His Excellency Rechid Pasha was not quite pleased.

I have no better excuse to offer for my conduct, than that, as Captain Fanshawe told me Admiral Stopford had directed him to deliver the letter to the Grand Vizier, I did not choose to contradict the Admiral's directions.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of that officer's instructions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

M. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 18 Décembre, 1840.

VOICI ce qui s'est passé à l'entrevue du Capitaine Fanshawe avec le Grand Vizir. Le Capitaine était accompagné du Capitaine Codrington, et du Capitaine du "Stromboli." Le Capitaine a dit au Grand Vizir par l'entremise de son propre Drogman, qui est le Drogman du Consul d'Angleterre à Smyrne, connu dans toute la flotte sous le nom de "Black John," qu'il a été chargé par l'Amiral de porter à Alexandrie une intimation à Méhémet Ali de faire sa soumission en consentant à tous les points qu'on portait à sa connaissance,—points sur lesquels le Gouvernement Anglais est parfaitement d'accord avec ses Alliés; que sa commission consistait à prendre la réponse de Méhémet Ali dans une lettre ouverte, et de remettre lui-même la lettre de Méhémet Ali entre les mains de Son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et en disant cela, il a remis au Grand Vizir la lettre de Méhémet Ali; et une lettre de Mustapha Pacha de Candie, qui contient sa soumission.

Le Grand Vizir, my Lord, s'est très bien comporté. Il a dit, après avoir lu la lettre de Méhémet Ali: "La Porte a déjà une connaissance de ces conditions, comme on sait; mais je ne saurais vous rien dire sur cette grande question, que la Sublime Porte traite avec les Cours Alliées, et qui, par conséquent, est devenu une affaire de politique extérieure, tout-à-fait du ressort du Département des Affaires Extérieures, qui connaît toutes les circonstances y relatives beaucoup mieux que moi. La Porte considérera sur cette question avec les Représentans des Cours Alliées, et son Excel-

lence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères fera connaître aux Alliés les intentions de la Porte; je vous prie, en attendant, M. le Capitaine, de ne pas prendre l'acceptation de cette lettre à vos mains, comme une acceptation de son contenu." Le Capitaine a dit qu'il n'était non plus nullement autorisé à entrer dans les détails de cette affaire, et qu'il prendra des mains de Lord Ponsonby le résultat de cette affaire. Le Capitaine a dit que Méhémet Ali lui a donné sa parole qu'il remettra la flotte Turque à tel officier que la Porte chargera de la conduire ici. Le Vizir a répondu, "La flotte est à nous; Alexandrie est notre pays. Nous sommes sûrs d'avoir la flotte tôt ou tard inmanquablement." Le Capitaine a saisi à propos pour parler de pacification entre le Sultan et Méhémet Ali; le Grand Vizir a répondu, "La pacification se fait entre deux Gouvernemens, et non pas entre un Souverain et un de ses sujets rebelles."

J'ai rendu compte à Réchid Pacha de ce qui s'est passé.

(Signé)

F. PISANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Captain Fanshawe to Viscount Ponsonby.

*Her Majesty's steam vessel "Stromboli,"
Therapia, December 17, 1840.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my interview with your Lordship yesterday, I have now the honour to inclose to you a copy of the Note which I gave to Mehemet Ali on the 8th instant, after having communicated to him the contents verbally, and which your Lordship will perceive is strictly in conformity with the instructions from Lord Palmerston, which I received from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, on being directed by him to proceed to Alexandria for the purpose.

On the third day after my arrival at Alexandria, I received from Boghos Bey the translation, which I presented to your Lordship yesterday, of the letter, or written engagement, from Mehemet Ali to the Vizier, the original of which I am the bearer of, and which I subsequently received from Mehemet Ali himself.

I beg leave also to take this opportunity of reporting to your Lordship, that in both the interviews I had with Mehemet Ali, he expressed himself desirous of yielding entirely to the Sultan's commands, in the hope that the intervention of the Allied Powers, and the mediation of England, with which he seemed much pleased, would obtain for him the tenure of Egypt; he laid stress upon holding the guarantee set forth in the Convention recently made with him by Commodore Napier; but I gave him to understand distinctly, that Convention had not been ratified by the Admiral Commander-in-Chief, and that I had no guarantee to offer him. I urged him at once to give up the Ottoman fleet, on which subject he pledged himself, most earnestly, that he would give it up to any officer the Sultan might name to take charge of it, immediately he arrived at Alexandria; or to the English Admiral, if so ordered; that he would lend his own officers and seamen to assist in navigating it; and that, as far as he was concerned, it should be ready to quit the port five days after the arrival of the Sultan's officer; and that he had already given orders for its preparation, (which, from information I received at the Arsenal, I believe was the case).

At my first interview with him, he promised to comply with my requisition as to time, the translations of the documents to be given to me, and their being sent under flying seal; and he did so: and at my suggestion gave me a letter to the Governor of Candia, directing him to give up the island to the Sultan's authorities, and to be prepared to quit it with the Egyptian troops; in short, he said he would do all that was required of him. With respect to the immediate evacuation of the Holy Cities, I was informed that the troops remaining in them, amounting to about 2,000, were left only for the purpose of maintaining order and security, and would be instructed to quit them on receiving the Sultan's commands, or on the arrival of Turkish troops.

I shall proceed in the "Stromboli" to-day to Constantinople, that she may take in coal; and I shall be prepared to wait on the Vizier with his letter, when I receive the intimation from him of his wish to see me; and unless your Lordship should wish the steamer to return to Therapia, I shall await in her, at the Golden Horn, your Lordship's instructions for my further guidance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

Alexandria, December 8, 1840.

IT having been determined by the Representatives of the Four Powers at London, who are parties to the Treaty of the 15th July, to make known their intentions to Mehemet Ali, through the Admiral commanding the Allied forces in the Mediterranean, and instructions on the subject, bearing date 14th November, having been forwarded by Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, I have been appointed by the Admiral to proceed to Alexandria to make the following communication to Mehemet Ali: viz.—That if Mehemet Ali will make immediate submission to the Sultan, and will deliver into my hands a written engagement to restore without further delay the Turkish fleet, and to cause his troops immediately to evacuate the whole of Syria, the district of Adana, the Island of Candia, Arabia, and the Holy Cities, the Four Powers will recommend the Sultan to reinstate Mehemet Ali in the Pashalick of Egypt; but I am directed also to state, that the recommendation will be given by the Four Powers, only in the event of the prompt submission of Mehemet Ali, and that I am only to remain three days in Alexandria to know the decision of Mehemet Ali, in order to convey it to Constantinople; and I am instructed further to require, that the written document to be given to me by Mehemet Ali shall be placed in my hands open, in order that I may inform myself that it contains the above-mentioned engagement, without which I shall not be empowered to convey it to Constantinople.

(Signed)

ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

No. 122.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 16, 1841.)

(No. 305.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 23, 1840.

I RECEIVED this afternoon the Protocol of the Conference held at the House of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the 20th instant, at which were present Rechid Pasha, and the Representatives of the Four Allies, and the Dragomans of Austria and England, and M. Franceschi, who made the Protocol which I have now the honour to inclose.

I have little need to explain to your Lordship the grounds upon which I acted; submission is the first mentioned of the conditions, upon which I am ordered to give advice to the Sublime Porte, and it is also the most important, the others being insignificant, as things have turned out. My duty is to see that submission has been made by Mehemet Ali—real submission, and there are many things, documents, to make it very doubtful if Mehemet Ali has submitted, and has not taken this matter as concessions forced upon the Sultan by the Allies for the purpose of establishing him in Egypt with indefinite power. Your Lordship's instructions would not authorise me to say that such a submission is the submission contemplated by Her Majesty's Government, and as I do not think it proper for

me, under the circumstances in which I am placed, to declare that it is not a submission, I have declined giving any opinion at all on the point, and said I would await the decision of it by the Sublime Porte, having stated what counsel I shall have to offer in the name of my Government, if the Sublime Porte accept the submission.

Your Lordship has always declared that the Sultan is the sole judge and arbiter of his own interests; and you will see, in the Protocol, that the Representatives united cordially in disavowing intentions to act upon the Sultan except by counsel alone. I saw this with satisfaction, because endeavours have not been wanting to inspire the Ottoman Ministers with some jealousy of the prepotency of the Four Powers.

It will appear, I think, in the Protocol, that I am not alone in thinking the submission may be subject to doubt, for the Internuncio says that Mehemet Ali has made a commencement of submission. This may be so, for the interest of Mehemet Ali is to accept the enormous boon offered him, as he gives nothing for it in return; but my orders from my Government are not subject to be modified by me, and I cannot take upon myself the responsibility of acting without the most positive authority in a question like the present.

I will send a messenger to acquaint your Lordship with the determination of the Sublime Porte whenever I am informed of it.

I send the copy of the Protocol which was sent to me by his Excellency the Internuncio.

The Protocol is substantially correct in statement of what passed, but there are errors in its report of expressions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 122.

PROTOCOL of the Conference held at the House of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, the 20th of December, 1840, between the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on one part, and the Representatives of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, on the other.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.—Vous savez, Messieurs, qu'une lettre a été adressée par Méhémet Ali à la Sublime Porte, et vous en connaissez le contenu. La Sublime Porte a également reçu avant hier le memorandum de la Conférence de Londres du 14 Novembre. Le Sultan m'a ordonné de vous demander, Messieurs, si Méhémet Ali s'est conformé par cette lettre à l'esprit du memorandum, et si sa soumission doit être considérée comme réelle.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—Je pense que c'est au Sultan qu'il peut seulement appartenir de décider ce point.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.—Jusqu'ici il n'y a de la part de Méhémet Ali que des paroles; s'il exécute les promesses faites dans la lettre, alors sa soumission pourra être considérée comme réelle.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—Je laisse à mes Collègues de décider là-dessus. Quant à moi, je ne vois pour le moment rien devant moi qui m'autorise à m'expliquer, ni à énoncer une opinion.

M. l'Internonce d'Autriche.—Dans le but de me décharger de toute responsabilité et de faire clairement connaître les vues de mon Gouvernement dans une circonstance aussi importante, j'ai cru convenable de mettre mon vote par écrit. Je vais en faire la lecture à la Conférence:—“J'ai lu et relu avec la plus scrupuleuse attention la lettre que Méhémet Ali vient d'adresser au Grand Vizir, et sur laquelle je suis appelé à dire mon opinion. Je n'y ai rien trouvé qui ne soit correct. Le ton qui y règne m'a paru répondre à tous les sentimens de convenance. Il eût été désirable qu'il n'y eût pas été question de la Convention du Commodore Napier; mais nous sommes tous d'accord qu'il l'eût été bien plus

encore que cette Convention n'eût jamais été conclue, et Méhémet Ali, en s'y référant, n'a fait que se prévaloir d'un avantage qui lui a été offert gratuitement. Il n'aurait tenu d'ailleurs qu'au Capitaine Fanshawe de lui représenter qu'un acte que les Commandeurs Alliés avaient déclaré nul et comme non avenu ne devait pas être mentionné dans la lettre au Grand Vizir. Mais je ne m'appesentirai pas sur cette circonstance, qui, à tout prendre, n'a plus maintenant qu'un intérêt secondaire. Je reviens à la lettre de Méhémet Ali. Dans cette lettre le Pacha déclare être prêt à faire tout ce qu'on lui demande, et sous ce rapport sa soumission me paraît entière.

“Je serais donc d'avis que cette soumission fut acceptée; qu'un officier de Sa Hautesse fut envoyé à Alexandrie; que Méhémet Ali reçut l'injonction de lui remettre la flotte Ottomane; que d'après les termes de l'Acte séparé de la Convention du 15 Juillet, les Commandeurs Alliés fussent invités à assister à cette remise; que le Pacha fût sommé d'évacuer les provinces ou villes de l'Empire Ottomane qu'occupent encore les troupes Egyptiennes et qui se trouvent situées en dehors des limites de l'Egypte; enfin, que le Grand Vizir, en répondant à sa lettre, lui annonçât que, ces conditions une fois remplies en entier, Sa Hautesse, par égard pour ses Alliés, daignerait le réinstaller dans ses fonctions de Pacha d'Egypte. Ce Conseil est celui que la Conférence de Londres a voulu que nous donnassions à la Sublime Porte dans le cas où Méhémet Ali se rendrait à la sommation qui vient de lui être faite. Quant au tribut, aux forces de terre et de mer, et aux lois qui devront gouverner l'Egypte, ces points ont été réglés d'avance par la Convention du 15 Juillet, et il suffira d'exécuter à cet égard les stipulations que renferment les Articles III., V., et VI., de l'Acte séparé annexé à cette Convention.

“Je regarderais comme regrettable à tous égards toute hésitation de la Porte à se conformer aux conseils de ses Alliés. Les plus brillans succès ont couronné leurs efforts en Syrie: ces succès ont dépassé nos calculs, nos prévisions, nos espérances. La Syrie est rentrée sous le sceptre de Sa Hautesse, et le principal objet de l'Alliance se trouve ainsi rempli. Allez plus loin, n'entre pas dans les vues des Puissances Alliées: la Conférence de Londres s'est assez clairement prononcée à cet égard. La Sublime Porte peut sans doute avoir de bonnes raisons pour désirer l'anéantissement de Méhémet Ali; mais n'ayant pas les moyens de l'effectuer elle-même, ce serait sur ses Alliés qu'en retomberait la charge. Or, voudrait-elle, pour prix des services qu'ils lui ont rendus, les jeter dans une entreprise qui mettrait en péril la paix générale si ardemment désirée par tous les peuples et si heureusement maintenue jusqu'ici.

“C'est vers la France surtout, que se porte aujourd'hui l'attention de nos Gouvernemens; cette Puissance a droit à leurs égards et à leur intérêt; et si l'attitude menaçante et belliqueuse du Ministère Thiers n'a pu les arrêter dans leur marche vers le but qu'ils se proposaient et qu'ils ont atteint, ils semblent désormais vouloir vouer tous leurs soins à ménager le Ministère qui lui succède, et dont le langage annonce une politique sage, modérée, et conciliante. Ils doivent en conséquence entrer dans sa position, faire la part des difficultés dont il est entouré, et ne pas l'exposer à se voir entraîné malgré lui dans une fausse route. Dans l'état où sont les esprits en France, un incident imprévu peut tout bouleverser, et n'est-il pas dans l'intérêt de tous et dans celui de la justice, qu'on s'unisse franchement à ceux qui la gouvernent, pour prévenir un pareil malheur?”

M. l'Internonce donne ensuite lecture des paragraphes 3, 4, 5, and 6, de l'Acte séparé du 15 Juillet.

M. l'Envoyé de Prusse.—Je partage l'opinion de M. l'Internonce. La démarche de Méhémet Ali me paraît en effet conforme à l'esprit du Memorandum. Je pense, en outre, que Méhémet Ali ayant sollicité son pardon du Sultan, la Sublime Porte ne devrait pas agir avec trop de sévérité contre lui; qu'elle devrait au contraire se prêter à des explications et faire preuve de mesure et de modération, non seulement dans l'intérêt de la Porte elle-même, mais encore dans l'intérêt général de l'Europe.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie.—Dans tout ce qui a trait à la question générale les vues de mon Gouvernement ne sauraient différer de celles des Trois autres Cours ses Alliées; mes instructions sont basées sur ce principe. Dans la question spéciale qui fait l'objet de cette Conférence, les documens existans doivent nous indiquer la marche et les règles à suivre; or, cette marche et ces

règles me semblent déjà tracées par le mémorandum de la Conférence de Londres du 14 Novembre, et par la dépêche de Lord Palmerston du 15 Octobre. Le mémorandum ne m'est pas encore parvenu de mon Gouvernement; c'est M. l'Internonce qui a eu l'obligeance de me le communiquer; j'ai seulement reçu la dépêche de Lord Palmerston, qui est mentionnée, et je crois me conformer au sens de ces pièces, en m'associant, dans la circonstance dont il s'agit, au vote émis par M. l'Internonce.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—La question, je le répète, me semble dépendre du fait de la soumission de Méhémet Ali, et le Sultan me paraît seul juge dans une semblable question; il a seul le droit de prononcer. Si la Sublime Porte nous fait connaître que le Sultan a agréé la soumission de Méhémet Ali, qu'il en est satisfait, les ordres de mon Gouvernement me prescrivent de conseiller, dans ce cas, à la Sublime Porte d'accorder à Méhémet Ali le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Égypte. Jusque là, jusqu'à ce que la Porte nous fasse connaître la décision du Sultan, je dois m'abstenir de tout conseil, de toute opinion.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.—Il y a différens genres de soumission. Méhémet Ali aurait pu, par exemple, venir lui-même, d'après nos usages, ou envoyer quelqu'un pour implorer sa grâce; mais ce n'est pas ce que nous prétendons. Le mémorandum veut que Méhémet Ali restitue la flotte, qu'il évacue certains pays. Il écrit qu'il fera tout cela; s'il accomplit ces promesses, la Sublime Porte pourra croire à la soumission, mais la lettre ne peut pas être considérée par elle seule comme une soumission réelle.

M. l'Internonce d'Autriche.—La lettre est un commencement de soumission. Si la Sublime Porte demande la remise de la flotte, que Méhémet Ali la restitue, et qu'il évacue les pays désignés dans le mémorandum, sa soumission sera certainement alors complète.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie.—Il est certain que nous ne pourrions considérer la soumission de Méhémet Ali comme accomplie que lorsqu'il aura rendu la flotte, et évacué les Villes Saintes, ainsi que les autres lieux nommés dans le mémorandum: mais nous devons pour le moment nous en tenir au texte du mémorandum et de l'instruction adressée par l'Amirauté à l'Amiral Stopford, où il est fait mention d'une lettre à être remise par Méhémet Ali à l'officier chargé de lui signifier la décision de la Conférence de Londres.

M. l'Internonce.—Que pouvait faire de plus Méhémet Ali? Il devait commencer par dire qu'il se soumettait, et il ne pouvait dans la même heure effectuer toutes les conditions de sa soumission.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, faisant allusion à ce qu'avait dit M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, fait observer que jusqu'ici il n'avait point été question d'hérédité.

M. l'Internonce.—Je ne suis pas appelé dans ce moment à discuter cet objet, sur lequel je n'ai point d'instruction précise, mais, le cas échéant, je me conformerai entièrement sur ce point à ce que fera M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—Pour moi, j'ai l'ordre précis de conseiller à la Sublime Porte de concéder l'hérédité à Méhémet Ali, dès qu'elle nous fera connaître que le Sultan est satisfait de la soumission de Méhémet Ali; mais ce conseil ne peut qu'être conditionnel; je n'ai pas le droit de juger de la réalité de la soumission, et je dois attendre, pour le donner, que le Sultan se prononce sur le fait de la soumission.

M. l'Internonce.—Quant à moi, je dois le répéter, j'envisage la lettre de Méhémet Ali comme un premier pas vers sa soumission.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—Je ne pourrai agir dans le sens des instructions de mon Gouvernement que lorsque la Sublime Porte aura déclaré qu'elle considère la soumission de Méhémet Ali comme complète. Mais je ne puis

demander au Sultan une déclaration quelconque à ce sujet, car je croirais empiéter sur ses droits. C'est à Sa Majesté à décider.

M. l'Envoyé de Prusse.—Je pense, ainsi que je l'ai déjà dit, que la Sublime Porte ne doit pas user en cette circonstance de trop de sévérité, et je dois l'engager toujours à la modération.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.—La Porte n'a jamais voulu agir avec sévérité; les faits l'ont déjà prouvé. Elle ne le veut pas même aujourd'hui. Elle veut, au contraire, agir de concert avec ses Alliés, et quoique ce soit sans doute au Sultan à décider sur la soumission de Méhémet Ali, néanmoins, comme ses Alliés ont déclaré leurs intentions dans le mémorandum, j'ai cru devoir consulter leurs Représentans pour savoir si la démarche de Méhémet Ali est conforme à l'esprit du mémorandum; mais, puisqu'il y a dissidence dans leurs opinions, on pourrait s'en remettre à la décision de la Conférence de Londres.

M. l'Internonce.—Mais il n'y a point de dissidence entre nous; nous pensons tous que la soumission de Méhémet Ali, pour devenir complète, doit être suivie de l'exécution des conditions qui lui sont imposées. Je pense encore, que renvoyer la question à la décision de la Conférence de Londres, ce serait en appeler de la Conférence à la Conférence, et perdre du temps en ajournemens inutiles.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.—Je crois que Méhémet Ali doit d'abord exécuter les conditions qui lui sont imposées; quant à l'hérédité, c'est une autre question sur laquelle je ne suis pas préparé à m'expliquer.

M. l'Internonce déclare encore une fois que, le moment venu, il s'associera sur ce point aux démarches de M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, et M. l'Envoyé de Prusse fait la même déclaration.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.—Vous savez, Messieurs, qu'à son avènement au trône, le Sultan avait accordé à Méhémet Ali l'administration héréditaire de l'Égypte; il a rejeté cette faveur. Le Traité du 15 Juillet la lui a accordée encore plus tard, dans le but d'épargner l'effusion du sang; Méhémet Ali l'a également rejetée. Il a fallu recourir aux mesures coercitives, et le Sultan a retiré cette faveur. Aujourd'hui, il me semble qu'il ne peut plus être question d'un droit en faveur de Méhémet Ali, et que le Sultan est libre de se décider sur ce point.

Messieurs les Représentans sont tous unanimes à reconnaître que le Sultan a toute sa liberté d'action à cet égard, et que Méhémet Ali ne saurait invoquer aucun droit.

M. l'Envoyé de Prusse a ajouté que toute concession en faveur de Méhémet Ali ne saurait être envisagée que comme un effet de la générosité du Sultan, car l'indépendance de Sa Hauteur est le but de la Convention du 15 Juillet; mais plus la position du Sultan est avantageuse aujourd'hui, et plus elle lui permettra peut-être d'être généreux.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.—Puisque Méhémet Ali a rejeté le Traité du 15 Juillet, ce Traité n'existe plus pour lui, et l'on pourrait imposer à Méhémet Ali d'autres conditions.

M. l'Internonce.—Mais le Traité existe toujours pour nous.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—Je déclare que, dans mon opinion, Méhémet Ali n'a aucun droit aujourd'hui, que le Sultan est le maître de prendre le parti qu'il croira convenable, et que nous ne pouvons que lui prêter nos conseils.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, s'adressant à M. l'Internonce, lui dit:—Votre Excellence a commencé par dire que si le Sultan est satisfait de la lettre de Méhémet Ali, on devrait accepter sa soumission. Mais Méhémet Ali a déjà écrit mille lettres semblables. Peut-on ajouter foi à ses lettres? Il est évident d'ailleurs qu'il y a de la ruse même dans cette dernière lettre. Par exemple, il

parle de la Convention du Commodore Napier, qui est un acte nul, pour aborder le sujet de l'hérédité.

M. l'Internonce.—Cela est vrai, mais on ne peut comparer cette lettre donnée par suite d'une sommation qui lui est faite par l'Amiral Anglais, au nom des Quatre Puissances, à toutes celles qu'il a adressées de son chef à la Sublime Porte et nommément à Hosrew Pacha.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.—Vous concevez, Messieurs, qu'il faut qu'en tout cas la Porte ait le temps de réfléchir sur cette affaire.

M. l'Internonce.—Assurément, une affaire de ce genre ne peut être bâclée dans un jour; il faut sans doute que votre Excellence puisse se concerter avec ses Collègues et prendre les ordres du Sultan.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères fait observer que, devant soumettre au Conseil et au Sultan son rapport sur la Conférence de ce jour, il désire savoir, en définitive, qu'elle est la conclusion qu'il doit leur faire connaître.

Messieurs les Représentans répondent que, leur opinion se trouvant consignée dans le présent Protocole, ils s'y réfèrent.

M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.—Je répète que je dois attendre la décision du Sultan pour donner le conseil qui m'est prescrit par les ordres de mon Gouvernement.

M. l'Internonce fait observer encore une fois combien il serait regrettable que la Porte ne se conformât pas avec promptitude au vœu exprimé par les Cours Alliées dans le mémorandum du 14 Novembre.

No. 123.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 16, 1841.)

(No. 306.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of Mehemet Ali's letter to the Grand Vizier, which is more correct than that I sent in No. 298; and the translation of a letter from Mehemet Ali to the Military Governor of Candia, which letter is mentioned in Captain Fanshawe's report to me (forwarded to your Lordship), but which was not in my hands till yesterday.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure 1 in No. 123.

Mehemet Ali to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

Le 11 Decembre, 1840.

Après les titres d'usage.

MONSIEUR LE COMMODORE NAPIER de la flotte Britannique m'a fait savoir par une dépêche datée de devant Alexandrie le 22 Novembre, N. S., que les Grandes Puissances Alliées ont prié la Sublime Porte de m'octroyer le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte aux conditions par elles établies, savoir; que je rendrai la flotte Impériale qui se trouve

dans le Port d'Alexandrie, et que les troupes Egyptiennes se retireront de la Syrie, et rentreront en Egypte.

M. le Commodore a demandé que l'on mit de la diligence à préparer la flotte pour qu'elle soit rendue, et à faire retirer les troupes de la Syrie.

Après une certaine correspondance et quelques pourparlers avec le Commodore sur cette affaire, ces conditions ont été acceptées, et un acte authentique, faisant voir que l'on s'attend à ce que la faveur de celui, qui est l'ombre de Dieu, soit accordée, et servant de document à l'une et l'autre partie, a été conclu et signé.

En conséquence, j'ai écrit à mon fils Ibrahim Pacha, votre serviteur, de venir tout de suite en Egypte avec les troupes Egyptiennes qui sont réunies à Damas, et avec ses employés et autres gens, et je lui ai même envoyé à cet effet un homme exprès que j'ai fait partir sur un bateau à vapeur que *M. le Commodore* a procuré.

Je viens maintenant de recevoir d'Ibrahim Pacha, voie de terre, une dépêche en date du 1 Ramazan (le 27 Octobre), d'après laquelle il devait se mettre en route avec tout son monde, de Damas le 3 ou le 4 Chawal (le 28 ou le 29 Novembre). Ainsi, l'on doit regarder comme positif qu'il s'est mis en route à l'époque annoncée.

Et voici que sur ces entrefaites, je reçois de l'Amiral de la flotte Britannique, son Excellence Sir R. Stopford, une dépêche officielle écrite à la hauteur de Chypre, le 6 Décembre, et conçue dans le sens ci-dessous énoncé. *M. l'Amiral* m'a envoyé, en même tems, copie des instructions qu'il avait reçues de la part de son Excellence Lord Palmerston. Je vois par cette communication qu'il a été stipulé que je dois renouveler ma soumission à la Sublime Porte en rendant la flotte impériale, et en faisant évacuer par les troupes Egyptiennes la Syrie, Adana, la Crète, le Hedjas, et les deux Villes Saintes.

Je reconnais que l'obtention de mon pardon, que ma rentrée dans les bonnes grâces de mon Souverain et maître, au service duquel je saisis cette occasion de consacrer ma fortune et ma vie, et la gracieuse acceptation par Sa Majesté Impériale de ma très-humble soumission, sont les effets des nobles efforts des Hautes Puissances Alliées; et parfaitement reconnaissant pour tout cela, j'ai pris des mesures pour la restitution de la flotte impériale. On travaille avec activité à mettre les vaisseaux en bon état; et à la réception d'un firman faisant connaître de quelle manière il aura plu à Sa Majesté Impériale, que la flotte soit consignée et expédiée, je m'empresserai de me conformer à la volonté souveraine en mettant le dit firman à exécution.

Egalement, comme je suis prêt à retirer tous les employés Egyptiens qui se trouvent dans l'Île de Candie, dans le Hedjaz, et dans les deux Villes Saintes, à l'arrivée d'un firman de Sa Majesté Impériale à cet égard, les endroits ci-dessus mentionnés seront évacués sans délai par les employés Egyptiens.

Ainsi donc, lorsque votre Altesse aura, s'il plaît à Dieu, pris connaissance de ma prompte soumission effectuée comme ci-dessus, elle voudra bien la mettre aux pieds de la clémence de mon très-auguste et très-puissant Souverain et maître, dont je suis tant fier et tant orgueilleux d'être le serviteur fidèle et soumis, et employer ses bons offices afin de faire éprouver sans cesse les effets de la clémence souveraine à un homme avancé en âge et fidèle, qui a vieilli à son service.

Celui qui peut ordonner, ordonnera.

Le 17 Chawal, 1256.

(L.S.) **MEHEMET ALI.**

Inclosure 2 in No. 123.

Mehemet Ali to Muhafiz, Military Governor of Crete.

(Traduction.)

Le 22 Novembre, 1840.

A SON Excellence le Muhafiz de Candie, Pacha très-honoré, mon cher et bien-aimé fils.

Vous savez déjà, par ce qu'on vous en a informé il y a quelque tems, que la question qui s'agit actuellement est en voie d'accommodement.

Mais vous saurez aussi que je viens de recevoir de la part de son Excellence Sir Robert Stopford, l'Amiral de la flotte Anglaise, une dépêche officielle, d'après laquelle le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte va m'être accordé à la prière des Cours Alliées.

Cela étant, et attendu que l'île de Crète sera évacuée aussi, il faut que vous vous y prépariez en attendant qu'un firman réglant le mode de l'évacuation arrive de la part de la Sublime Porte, et qu'après cela, vous vous embarquiez pour venir sur les bâtimens que j'enverrai.

Je demande donc que votre Excellence, informée qu'elle sera du contenu de cette lettre, commence les préparatifs de voyage.

(Signé) MEHEMET ALI.

Le 17 Chewal, 1256.

No. 124.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 12, 1841.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 3, 1841.

I HAVE communicated to Prince Metternich your Lordship's despatch No. 212, addressed to myself, and your Nos. 266 and 270 to Lord Ponsonby, and His Highness has directed the Internuncio to co-operate with Lord Ponsonby in carrying out the instructions conveyed in the above despatches, and to consider them as obligatory upon himself. Upon one point only upon which your Lordship expresses a doubt, the Prince has given a positive opinion,—it relates to the suggestion that some of the sea-ports of Syria, such as Beyrout and Latakia, should be placed in the hands of the Emir Bechir. To this suggestion the Prince opposes a decided negative, as, in his opinion, it would expose the inhabitants of the mountain to foreign intrigues. Upon this point I may observe, that the Maronites, who are by far the most numerous of the mountain tribes, are at the same time those who are in the most immediate contact with the port of Beyrout. They have hitherto been religiously under the protection of France, and it is to be remarked, that the failure of the funds heretofore furnished to Rome by the Catholic countries of the world, having reduced that Court to the inability to pay the missions in the countries of unbelievers, France has taken this burthen upon herself, and has thus acquired a host of active agents, through whom she exerts an influence over the Catholic populations throughout the world. This is a grave reproach to the other Catholic Powers, but it is not likely to be done away; and although for the moment circumstances have led to the substitution of English and Austrian influence among the Maronites for that of France, yet it is not probable that this can be long maintained against the circumstances to which I have adverted. From these motives the Prince has expressed to the Internuncio his opinion, that the towns and ports on the sea-coast should remain in the hands of Pashas or Governors appointed by the Sultan, leaving the mountain districts to be governed in the manner laid down in your Lordship's despatch upon the subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 125.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 3, 1841.

I AM requested by Prince Metternich to state to your Lordship, that in case the Porte should hesitate to accede to the recommendation of the Allied Powers to confer the hereditary Government of Egypt upon Mehemet Ali, this Court does not admit that the Allies can allow themselves to be compromised by such hesitation. Prince Metternich entertains no doubt of the Porte's deferring to the advice of the Allies, if it be firmly and conjointly urged.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 126.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 25, 1841.

WITH reference to the contents of your Excellency's despatch No. 2, of the 3rd instant, I have to acquaint you, that Her Majesty's Government concur with Prince Metternich in thinking that the Sultan ought to keep in his own hands the sea-ports of Syria, and that such of them as are fortified should be garrisoned by troops to be sent from Constantinople, and to be relieved from time to time from thence.

With regard to the Maronites, might it not be worth while for Austria to furnish the Pope with the funds for paying the Maronite clergy, or would it not rather be expedient for the Sultan to take such payments upon himself.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 127.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 19, 1841.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, reporting Prince Metternich's opinion on the question of leaving some of the sea-ports of Syria in the hands of the Emir Bechir; and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government quite concur with Prince Metternich in thinking that the Sultan ought to keep in his own hands the sea-ports of Syria, and that His Highness should garrison such of them as are fortified, with troops to be sent from Constantinople, and to be relieved from time to time from thence.

Your Excellency will suggest this to the Porte, and you will also put it to the Turkish Government whether it might not be expedient for the Sultan to take upon himself the payment of the Maronite Clergy, in order to obviate the inconvenience which Lord Beauvale apprehends may arise from that Clergy continuing, as heretofore, to receive their means of subsistence from the French Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 128.

Lord Clanricarde to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 23, 1841.)

(No. 79.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 29, 1840.

THE French Ambassador has lately received a courier from Paris, but he has not received instructions to make any communication of importance to the Imperial Government. The Baron de Barante had applied for leave of absence, which has been so far refused, that M. Guizot has written to him that important discussions may probably arise upon the settlement of Syria, and has put it to him whether his Excellency would like to be absent from his post at such a moment. M. de Barante says that he has, therefore, postponed his departure from St. Petersburg. The language which he holds to Count Nesselrode, and to myself, is, that the Turkish Question is no wise concluded by Commodore Napier's successes and negotiations, but is only now beginning; that it is impossible to leave Turkey in the state of evident debility into which, he says, that important country has fallen; and that this state of things must be considered by all the Great Powers of Europe, and some provision made against the contingencies, which it renders not improbable. Count Nesselrode replies, that the danger with which Mehemet Ali menaced the Sublime Porte having been averted, and its recurrence guarded against, no occasion exists for other provisional engagements to meet events which appear very remote.

Count Nesselrode has sent to me Baron Brunnow's report of the details of the proceedings at Alexandria, and your Lordship's observations thereupon; and at that part of the latter which suggests that the deposition or re-establishment of Mehemet Ali in the Vice-regal possession of Egypt, with the right of succession to his family, must be decided by the Sultan. I see a marginal note, in pencil, of the Emperor's handwriting, saying,—“C'est juste l'observation que je vous ai faite ainsi qu'à Lord Clanricarde.” The suppression of a revolted vassal gives His Imperial Majesty a pleasure beyond that which the political consequences of Commodore Napier's conduct must give to all who, like the Emperor at this moment, desire the peace of Europe.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLANRICARDE.

No. 129.

Lord Clanricarde to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 23, 1841.)

(No. 82.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 30, 1840.

IN consequence, I believe, of an accident that occurred to the steamboat between Odessa and Constantinople, the last Mail from that capital was sent by land, and only reached this place yesterday; when Count Nesselrode learnt the manner in which the Convention entered into by Commodore Napier and Mehemet Ali was received by the Divan of the Sublime Porte.

The Russian Government will not despatch any instructions to M. Titow thereupon, for fear of adding to the complications and embarrassments in which the final arrangement of the Turco-Egyptian Question has become involved. The Emperor places entire reliance upon your Lordship's judgment and conduct in this difficulty.

Count Nesselrode thinks it unfortunate that the Sultan had not been disposed, or advised, to concede the hereditary Government of Egypt to Mehemet Ali, because now France may intervene, and the settlement of the question may be,—as the French Ambassador says it is,—only com-

mencing, instead of being virtually concluded, as had been hoped; and Count Nesselrode would have preferred that the whole matter should have been concluded without any French intervention. His Excellency thinks that to insist upon the deposition of Mehemet Ali will be to put France in an embarrassing position, and perhaps not without danger to the peace of Europe.

Count Nesselrode seems to think that M. Guizot will not be able long to sustain himself in power.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLANRICARDE.

No. 130.

Count Nesselrode to M. de Titow.—(Communicated by Baron Brunnow, January, 1841.)

Monsieur,

St. Pétersbourg, le 23 Décembre, 1840.

JE me suis empressé de placer sous les yeux de l'Empereur votre expédition du 28 Novembre, par laquelle vous nous avez rendu compte des derniers événements qui viennent de se passer à Alexandrie, ainsi que de la détermination de la Porte de refuser sa sanction à l'arrangement conclu par le Commodore Napier.

Il est certain qu'il n'appartient qu'à Sa Hautesse de déterminer en dernier ressort l'étendue des sacrifices qu'il lui convient de faire, pour assurer la pacification de son Empire, et ce Souverain ne doit point douter que l'Empereur désire sincèrement que cette pacification ait lieu aux conditions les moins défavorables pour la Porte.

Mais plus, notre Auguste Maître a à cœur de défendre les intérêts du Sultan, et plus aussi Sa Majesté Impériale croirait manquer à l'amitié qu'elle lui porte, si elle ne l'engageait sérieusement, dans ce moment décisif, à envisager avec calme et modération la situation actuelle des choses, et à se défendre contre des illusions et des espérances qui pourraient ne pas se réaliser en définitif.

Il y a encore peu de mois, à l'époque même de la signature de la Convention de 1^{er} Juillet, que ni la Porte ni ses Alliés n'avaient pu se flatter de réduire en si peu de tems Méhémet Ali à l'impuissance, à laquelle il se voit condamné aujourd'hui, et il est à peine permis de douter qu'on se serait empressé naguères de lui accorder l'hérédité, et même une partie de la Syrie, si, par ces moyens, on avait pu accélérer, dans l'intérêt de la paix générale, un arrangement définitif.

Depuis, les opérations militaires des Alliés en Syrie ont été couronnées par les succès les plus décisifs. Néanmoins, lorsque la Porte, dans un moment d'irritation, s'est déterminée à prononcer la déchéance de Méhémet Ali, les Puissances n'ont pas hésité à exposer leur opinion à cet égard, et à faire connaître les conditions auxquelles il leur semblait que le Sultan ne devait pas hésiter à réintégrer le Pacha dans l'administration héréditaire de l'Egypte.

Il est vrai sans doute que la Porte n'a jamais reçu jusqu'à présent une communication officielle des conseils que les Puissances Alliées avaient cru devoir lui adresser, mais la Porte connaît parfaitement la nature et la tendance des instructions du 15 Octobre, qui ont acquis une publicité Européenne: elle est également informée des déterminations arrêtées le 14 Novembre à Londres, et de la démarche qui a été prescrite à Sir R. Stopford, et qui n'avait d'autre but que d'assurer l'effet des instructions précédentes.

Il serait aujourd'hui impossible aux Quatre Puissances Alliées de revenir sur leurs déclarations antérieures. Déjà le Cabinet Britannique n'a pas hésité un instant à se prononcer en faveur des avantages qui résultent de la cessation des hostilités entre la Porte et Méhémet Ali, mais tout en appréciant le but que s'était proposé le Commodore Napier,

en prenant sur sa propre responsabilité d'accélérer la soumission du Pacha, tout en approuvant l'ensemble des conditions que cet officier lui a imposées, le Cabinet de Londres n'a pas cru assumer sur lui une garantie formelle, relativement au droit d'hérédité que le Sultan conférerait à Méhémet Ali.

Nous avons l'intime conviction que les autres Puissances adhéreront avec empressement à cette opinion de l'Angleterre, aucune d'elles ne voudra en effet se charger d'une garantie, qui deviendrait aussi onéreuse pour ces Puissances, qu'elle serait incompatible avec les droits de souveraineté de Sa Hautesse.

Il ne nous reste donc qu'à émettre le vœu que les Représentans des Cours Alliées à Constantinople soient mis à même de s'acquitter promptement des instructions dont ils ont été munis précédemment, en conseillant à la Porte de révoquer la déchéance de Méhémet Ali, et de lui accorder sa grâce avec la promesse d'hérédité, dans le cas où il remplirait sans plus de retard les autres conditions de sa soumission. Dans cette même hypothèse, il appartiendrait à la Porte d'apporter à cet acte d'investiture les restrictions contenues dans les Articles III., IV., V., et VI., de la Convention de Londres, et développées avec beaucoup de sagacité et de précision dans une dépêche du Prince de Metternich, adressée en tout dernier lieu à l'Internonce d'Autriche.

Du reste, au milieu de l'incertitude où nous nous trouvons encore sur les mesures que l'Amiral Anglais a prises, à la suite des instructions qui lui ont été transmises le 14 Novembre, ainsi que sur les déterminations ultérieures que Méhémet Ali aura adoptées en conséquence des nouvelles ouvertures qui lui auront été faites, nous nous trouvons dans l'impossibilité de vous donner des directions plus étendues que celles que vous recevez par la présente: au surplus, elles nous semblent assez précises, pour ne vous laisser aucun doute sur l'esprit dans lequel nous désirerions voir agir les Quatre Représentans à Constantinople, afin d'amener la Porte à prendre des déterminations sages et modérées, et conformes aux conjonctures actuelles.

Le Cabinet de Londres paraît plus que jamais pénétré de l'urgence de seconder, par tous les moyens possibles, la pacification de l'Orient et de faire cesser les doutes que le Divan paraît avoir sur les véritables intentions des Alliés. Veuillez donc bien, Monsieur, vous associer à Lord Ponsonby, pour tenir aux Ministres de la Porte le langage que Lord Palmerston vient de prescrire à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, et qui, nous n'en doutons point, sera également appuyé par les Représentans d'Autriche et de Prusse.

Nous aimons à croire que le Sultan saura apprécier nos conseils comme ils méritent de l'être, et que, pénétrée de l'importance de rétablir un moment plus-tôt la paix dans toute l'étendue de son Empire, et de prévenir désormais la possibilité d'un nouveau conflit, dont il serait difficile de calculer les diverses chances, Sa Hautesse s'empressera de suivre les avis bienveillans et désintéressés de ses Alliés, et contribuera ainsi à hâter la fin de la crise actuelle.

Recevez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

(Signé) NESSELRODE.

No. 131.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 24, 1841.)

(No. 310.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 30, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an official Note from the Sublime Porte, stating the appointment of Commissioners to be sent to Mehemet Ali, and also an application to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, for his

aid in removing the Ottoman fleet, if it should be restored by Mehemet Ali to the said Commissioners. I forwarded copy of this Note to Admiral Sir R. Stopford.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Rechid Pasha to Viscount Ponsonby.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Sublime Porte, le 27 Décembre, 1840.

JE me suis empressé de mettre sous les yeux du Sultan le Protocole de la Conférence du 20 de ce mois, et j'ai l'ordre d'informer votre Excellence que Sa Majesté Impériale, voulant constater par un nouvel acte ses sentimens de modération, est disposée à accepter la soumission de Méhémet Ali, et qu'elle n'attend que l'accomplissement des obligations qui lui sont imposées par le Mémoire de la Conférence de Londres, du 14 Novembre, pour considérer cette soumission comme accomplie, et pour confirmer Méhémet Ali dans le Pachalic de l'Egypte.

Dans le but de hâter cet accomplissement, et de mieux prouver ainsi son désir de s'associer, autant qu'il est en son pouvoir, aux vues de ses Augustes Alliés, le Sultan a décidé que Yaver Pacha (l'Amiral Walker) et Mazloum Bey se rendront incessamment en Egypte, en qualité de ses Commissaires, pour recevoir la flotte Ottomane, et pour s'assurer de l'évacuation par les troupes de Méhémet Ali des lieux désignés dans le Mémoire du 14 Novembre.

J'ai l'ordre de prier, en même tems, votre Excellence de vouloir bien inviter M. l'Amiral de Sa Majesté Britannique à assister, aux termes du paragraphe 4 de l'Acte Séparé de la Convention du 15 Juillet, à la remise qui sera faite de la flotte entre les mains des dits Commissaires.

Recevez, M. l'Ambassadeur, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

(Signé) RECHID,
Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Translation.)

Monsieur l'Ambassador,

*The Sublime Porte,
December 27, 1840.*

I HAVE lost no time in laying before the Sultan the Protocol of the Conference of the 20th of this month; and I am commanded to acquaint your Excellency, that His Imperial Majesty, wishing to prove by a fresh act the moderation of his sentiments, is disposed to accept the submission of Mehemet Ali, and only awaits the fulfilment of the conditions imposed upon him by the Memorandum of the 14th of November, to consider that submission as complete, and to confirm Mehemet Ali in the Pashalic of Egypt.

With the view of hastening that fulfilment, and thus to prove more clearly his desire to lend himself, as far as is in his power, to the views of his august Allies, the Sultan has decided that Yaver Pasha (Admiral Walker) and Mazloum Bey shall proceed immediately to Egypt as his Commissioners to receive the Ottoman fleet, and to ascertain that the places described in the Memorandum of the 14th of November are evacuated by the troops of Mehemet Ali.

I am commanded at the same time to request your Excellency will have the goodness to instruct Her Britannic Majesty's Admiral to assist

according to the 4th paragraph of the Separate Act of the Convention of the 15th of July, in the restoration of the fleet to the said Commissioners.

Receive, &c.,
(Signed) RECHID,
The Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 132.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 24, 1841.)

(No. 311.)

My Lord,

Therapia, December 30, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a correspondence between this Embassy and Captain Fanshawe, and I have the honour to report that Captain Fanshawe left Constantinople yesterday for Marmorice, and was the bearer to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford of a copy of the official Note inclosed in my dispatch No. 310.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

Mr. Doyle to Captain Fanshawe.

Sir,

Therapia, December 26, 1840.

I AM desired by Lord Ponsonby to inform you, that he has this evening received from the Ottoman Minister a message, asking him whether or not Commissioners, who are about to be sent by the Sublime Porte to Alexandria, can have a passage in the "Stromboli" to that port.

I am desired further to say, that the Ottoman Ministry wish for an answer to the above inquiry to-morrow morning, and that Lord Ponsonby hopes it may be convenient to you to send a reply at an early hour to the house of Mr. Frederick Pisani in Pera, so that it may be forwarded to Therapia without delay. The Minister has not told Lord Ponsonby on what day the Porte will be ready to despatch the Commissioners, but it is to be supposed it will be very soon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 132.

Captain Fanshawe to Mr. Doyle.

Sir,

*Her Majesty's Ship "Stromboli,"
Constantinople, December 27, 1840, 9 A.M.*

IN reply to the letter which I have just received from you, I have to request that you will acquaint his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, that Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Stromboli" not being fitted for the conveyance of passengers, and therefore without spare cabins, and as I do not know the rank or number of the Commissioners whom the Sublime Porte is desirous of sending to Alexandria, or the length of time they may be

required to remain on board of her there in quarantine, I am unable to say that they would have such accommodation as they may desire, though, of course, if his Excellency makes the requisition for their passage, specifying the rank and number of the persons going, I will give Captain Williams directions to prepare the best accommodation he can for them.

I beg also to state that my orders are to rejoin the Admiral Commander-in-Chief at Marmorice, in my way back to Alexandria, should my return thither be required.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR FANSHAWE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 132.

Mr. Doyle to Captain Fanshawe.

Sir,

Therapia, December 27, 1840.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, which I have communicated to his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, who begs me to say that it is not in his power to give you the information you require, but that he has forwarded your letter to the Ottoman Minister, and will make you acquainted with the reply as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 132.

Mr. Doyle to Captain Fanshawe.

Sir,

Therapia, December 28, 1840.

I AM desired by Lord Ponsonby to acquaint you that he has this moment received an official communication from the Ottoman Minister, saying, that in consequence of the difficulty there would be in arranging the conveyance of the Ottoman Commissioners in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Stromboli" to Alexandria, the Porte has ordered a Turkish steamer for that purpose.

The Minister has expressed in the name of the Porte the obligation felt for the friendly disposition of Her Majesty's Government as it is manifested in the assistance that has been afforded on this occasion.

I am further directed by Lord Ponsonby to say, that the Sublime Porte having decided upon adopting the above-mentioned mode of acting, he is not aware of anything within his competency, which can be the cause of your detention here. Lord Ponsonby will take the liberty of sending you a letter for the Admiral.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 132.

M. F. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 28 Décembre, 1840.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que j'ai communiqué à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères la lettre de M. le Capitaine Fanshawe à M. Doyle, en date d'hier; et que M. le Ministre m'a chargé de faire savoir à votre Excellence, que comme il voit par la lettre de M. le

Capitaine qu'il y a des difficultés pour le passage des Commissaires Ottomans sur le "Stromboli" pour Alexandrie, la Porte les y enverra sur un bateau à vapeur de la Marine Impériale Turque.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signed) F. PISANI.

No. 133.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1841.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy* of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, respecting the instructions about to be given by Prince Metternich to the Internuncio on the Eastern Question. I take for granted that the steps mentioned in my despatch No. 270, of the 17th of December, have long since been carried into effect.

With reference, however, to the Protocol of the Conference held between your Excellency and your Colleagues and Rechid Pasha, on the 20th of December, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch No. 305, I have to state to your Excellency that I cannot disapprove of your having declined to take upon yourself the responsibility of declaring that Mehemet Ali's letter to the Grand Vizier, brought by Captain Fanshawe, unaccompanied by any acts of fulfilment, should be deemed and accepted as a complete submission; but that which I think your Excellency ought to have done, was to have said in the Conference, that, in pursuance of your instructions, you then and at once gave to the Porte the advice prescribed by my instructions to your Excellency, No. 195, of the 15th of October, not recommending that such advice should be immediately acted upon, but that it should be carried into execution by the Porte, as soon as the good faith of Mehemet Ali's submission shall have been proved by facts.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 134.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 17, 1841.

THE Internuncio's despatches of the 30th ultimo from Constantinople, brought intelligence that the Commissioners destined for Alexandria, would not be empowered to give any assurance as to the right of hereditary succession in Mehemet Ali's family, and that their arrival at that port would be delayed as much as possible in order to give time for military operations against Ibrahim Pasha and for insurrections in Egypt.

In consequence of this intelligence Prince Metternich sent despatches to Prince Esterhazy, by which he announces that Austria remains firm to her pledge of obtaining the grant of hereditary succession for Mehemet Ali, and that a refusal on the part of the Porte to grant it, would cause this country to withdraw its moral and material support from the Sultan; adding, that after the submission of Mehemet Ali, there could be no further ground for attacking Ibrahim Pasha; that the only possible question with regard to his force would be as to the mode of withdrawing it from Syria; and that any attack upon him, or any insurrection in Egypt, would be disapproved and disavowed by Austria.

Copies of these despatches will be forwarded this day to the Inter-

* See No. 136.

nuncio to serve for his guidance. Admiral Bandiera has long since been instructed to take no part in any attack upon the coast of Egypt, and by this occasion he will be further directed to decline giving assistance to operations against Ibrahim Pasha.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 135.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 17, 1841.

Despatches of the 7th instant, received yesterday from Prince Esterhazy and Baron Neumann, have convinced Prince Metternich that the British Government has not only not employed the means in its power to induce the Porte to grant hereditary succession to the family of Mehemet Ali, but that it has purposely abstained from doing so, in the hope that events might arise which would render such a measure unnecessary.

This conviction having been brought home to the Prince's mind, has led him to submit the position of things to the Council of His Imperial Majesty, (here called the Conference,) in order to enable it to decide upon the ulterior measures which that position requires. This has led to the adoption of further resolutions in addition to those already consigned to the despatches of which Prince Nicholas Esterhazy was the bearer.

Having had a full conversation with the Prince upon the subject, I believe your Lordship may rely upon the following, as containing the elements and the sum of the resolutions of the Imperial Court upon the subject.

It feels itself placed between two difficulties. One, is that of coming to an agreement with the British Cabinet, upon the subject of the grant of hereditary right to Mehemet Ali; the other, is that of clearing up the question of armed peace between the Germanic Confederation and France. Between the two, it feels the second to comprize at this moment the vital interests of Europe, and particularly those of Austria. The two questions are connected, because the French Cabinet gives us to understand that it cannot proceed to re-establish the normal state of peace, until the Eastern Affair shall be closed. Austria and Prussia regard it as virtually closed by the retreat of Mehemet Ali within the bounds of Egypt, and by his submission to the orders of his Sovereign. The question of the hereditary grant is, in the Prince's opinion, decided in principle by the Memorandum of the 15th of October, and by all the manifestations which have since been made, both at Constantinople and at other places. This has been particularly made clear by the acquiescence of the British Cabinet in the arrangement made by Commodore Napier, that Cabinet having approved his Convention with the single exception of the Article relating to the guarantee. To return upon these manifestations, appears to the Cabinet of Vienna impossible, and that, not less on the ground of a promise given, than on that of the pretence which the resuming that promise would furnish to France for maintaining her military force on the footing on which she has placed it. It is, in the conviction of the Austrian Cabinet, impossible for it to support towards the Sovereigns of the Confederation, the principle that their defensive armaments are to be maintained, in consequence of the refusal of the Four Powers to insist with the Porte upon the concession of hereditary right to Mehemet Ali. Between the two, Austria will prefer to abandon the party in the Levant, for she cannot compromise the States of the Confederation, nor place them at the mercy of France. Germany is prepared to accept war for the defence of its national interests, but the hereditary succession of Mehemet Ali's family has no interest for Germany, nor would she follow Austria in that direction.

From these considerations, this Cabinet is prepared to declare, that with the submission of Mehemet Ali to the summons made to him by Admiral Stopford, in the name of the Four Powers, the Turco-Egyptian question is come to an end. If the Sultan should refuse the hereditary grant to Mehemet Ali, this country will give him no support, but will withdraw itself from the new affair which would inevitably arise from thence, either between the Porte and Mehemet Ali, or among the European Powers.

France has armed both by land and sea, and if the Eastern affair is brought to an end, those against whom France shall propose to maintain her armed peace will naturally remain united. If the question of hereditary right were to become the cause or the pretence under which France should remain armed, the Continent will exempt itself from this ground of war, by disavowing it for its part. In this case, the course of Continental Europe will be decided by that of Germany.

Thus far I have followed as closely as possible the very language of Prince Metternich, in developing the line he proposes to pursue. It is sufficiently clear, and needs little addition, but I lose not an instant in apprizing your Lordship, that in the course, in all probability, of forty-eight hours, despatches to the above effect will be sent off to Prince Esterhazy, and also to the Courts of Berlin and St. Petersburg. The accession of the former to Prince Metternich's ideas is not doubtful, and that of the latter appears equally assured by despatches recently received from thence, from which it appears, not only that the Emperor considers his word engaged to obtain the offer of hereditary succession to Mehemet Ali, but that some degree of ill-humour had been already felt at the Russian Court, at the delays and evasions practised at Constantinople.

It has appeared to me, that if Her Majesty's Government should decide to preserve the Alliance by obtaining the fulfilment of the pledge it has taken, this may be done with a better grace before receiving communication of Prince Metternich's despatches, which would in that case be withheld; but things have now been suffered to go so far, that I doubt the sufficiency of any resolution to attain that end, which shall not place us on the ground which has been taken by Austria, by deciding to withdraw our forces from the Levant, and to abandon the Porte to its own resources, in case of a refusal on its part to concede the condition to which the Powers hold themselves to be bound. In case Her Majesty's Government should decide against this course, the Austrian Government will, upon the refusal of the Sultan to grant hereditary right to Mehemet Ali, withdraw its forces of every description from the Levant, notifying at the same time to the Federative Courts, that its share in the Eastern question is at an end. There would afterwards, in all probability, ensue negotiation with France for putting an end to the "*paix armée*." I need hardly remark to your Lordship, that there would result from this an interversion of positions, which would place England in the state of insulation from which France would escape, nor is it possible to foresee the new events and combinations which might consequently arise in Europe. The source of all this confusion has, in Prince Metternich's opinion, no real value; he has no belief in the continuance under any circumstances of hereditary succession in Egypt in the family of Mehemet Ali, nor, if he believed in it, would he consider it as a misfortune either to the Porte or to any body else. The balance therefore in his mind is between a thing utterly valueless on the one side, and objects of the most vital importance on the other. Under these impressions your Lordship cannot wonder at his decision.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 136.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 17, 1841.

PRINCE METTERNICH has just shown me a draft of a despatch to the Internuncio, in which, after recapitulating the substance of the despatches sent by Prince Nicholas Esterhazy, he directs him to call his Colleagues together, and making them acquainted with the resolutions of the Austrian Cabinet, to call upon them to concur in steps calculated to give effect to the decisions taken in the centre of London, and consigned to your Lordship's despatch No. 270, of 17th December last, to Lord Ponsonby.

If it should be impossible to induce all the Representatives to act in common, the Internuncio is directed, in that case, to state to the Divan the determination of Austria; leaving it open to such of the other Ministers as may think fit, to make similar declarations. I have good reason to think that the Russian and Prussian Ministers will act with the Internuncio, and as it will only be a question of giving effect to an instruction of your Lordship's, I hope Lord Ponsonby will have no difficulty in doing the same. The Prince is employed in drawing up a further instruction to the Internuncio which he has promised to show me, but I shall not detain Lord Napier for the purpose of giving an account of it. I expect it to contain instructions as to the representations to be made to the Divan. I shall not fail by this occasion to acquaint Lord Ponsonby with what is passing, in as far as I can do so, by an Austrian Courier.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 137.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 21.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1841.

Your Excellency's despatches to No. 12 inclusive, have been received and laid before the Queen.

With reference to your Excellency's despatch, No. 10, of the 17th instant, stating that the Internuncio's despatches of the 30th ultimo had brought intelligence that the Commissioners destined for Alexandria would not be empowered to give any assurance as to the right of hereditary succession in Mehemet Ali's family, and that their arrival at that port would be delayed as much as possible, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do not know what instructions or authority the Porte has given to the Commissioners whom it has sent to Alexandria; but the Austrian Government has been entirely misinformed as to the delay which it supposes the Porte to intend to practise in regard to sending those Commissioners. For, in the first place, the Porte applied on the 26th ultimo, through Lord Ponsonby, to Captain Fanshawe, for an immediate passage for those Commissioners in her Majesty's steam-vessel "*Stromboli*," and it was only because Captain Fanshawe stated that he had no means of accommodating them, and that he was obliged to go in the first instance to Marmorice Bay, that the Commissioners did not at once proceed in the "*Stromboli*." But the Porte, upon considering the statement made by Captain Fanshawe, determined to send them in a vessel of its own; and so little foundation is there for the assertion made to your Excellency by the Austrian Government, that the Porte would delay as much as possible the arrival of the Commissioners at Alexandria, that I have this morning seen a letter from Sir Robert Stopford to Lord Minto, dated Marmorice Bay, the 13th of January, being four days antecedent to your Excellency's despatch, in which Sir Robert Stopford states that

the Turkish Commissioners had already at that time arrived at Marmoreice, and had left it again for Alexandria, and Sir Robert added that he had sent Commodore Napier with them to Alexandria, to superintend the arrangements for the restoration of the Turkish fleet.

Prince Metternich must therefore have been strangely misinformed upon these matters.

With respect to the orders given to the Austrian frigates at Marmoreice Bay, not to take any part in any attack upon Egypt, and not to aid any operations against Ibrahim Pasha, I have to observe, first, that it has long been well explained by me to Prince Esterhazy, and of course through him to Prince Metternich, that if Her Majesty's Government should at any time think that the course of events rendered it expedient that Her Majesty's Squadron should attack Alexandria, such a measure would, in the first instance, in conformity with the engagements contracted by each of the Four Powers by the Convention of the 15th of July, be submitted to the consideration of the Conference at London; and secondly, that as the army of Ibrahim was, when last heard of, at Damascus, and about to retreat to Egypt by the inland road through the Desert, it could not be very probable that the assistance of the Austrian frigates could be asked for in support of any attack which the Turkish army of Syria might make upon the retreating forces of the Egyptians.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 138.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 11 of the 17th instant, stating that despatches of the 7th instant, received from Prince Esterhazy and Baron Neumann, have convinced Prince Metternich that the British Government has not only not employed the means in its power to induce the Porte to grant hereditary tenure in Egypt to Mehemet Ali, but has purposely abstained from doing so; and I have to observe, that the conviction of Prince Metternich in this matter is entirely gratuitous, and not only unfounded upon any facts, but entirely opposed to facts, and to truth: and I have to state, that on the contrary, the conduct of the Austrian Government on this point is much more open to that interpretation.

For what has in this respect been the course pursued by the Two Governments?

The British Government sent of its own accord to Lord Ponsonby the instruction of the 15th of October, and invited the other Three Courts to send similar instructions to their Representatives at Constantinople.

If that invitation had been complied with, the whole matter would, in all probability, have long since been settled. But the Austrian Government took its stand upon a point of etiquette, or, as it represented it, upon an observance of the monarchical principle; and that Government, deeming it unfitting and inexpedient that the Sultan should make another proposition to his subject in the manner contemplated by the instruction of the 15th of October, suggested a different course of proceeding, and declined to give to the Internuncio instructions corresponding with those of the 15th of October to Lord Ponsonby. Thus, on that occasion, it was Austria, and not England, which abstained from using the means in its power to persuade the Porte to grant hereditary tenure to Mehemet Ali.

The British Government, anxious to adopt, whenever it properly can, the views of Austria, consented, at the suggestion of Prince Metternich, to suspend the execution of the instruction of the 15th of October, and

sent, on the 14th of November, a different instruction to Sir Robert Stopford, which instruction was founded upon a Memorandum drawn up in the Conference; the instruction itself having been fully considered in Conference, and several alterations having been made in it at the suggestion of the Representatives of the Three Powers.

But Lord Ponsonby was still instructed, that whenever the Porte should receive from Mehemet Ali the submission required by the instruction of the 14th of November, he was to give to the Porte, in concert with his Colleagues at Constantinople, the advice prescribed by the instruction of the 15th of October.

Now, it appears by the Protocol of the Conference held at Constantinople, on the 20th of December, between Rechid Pasha and the Representatives of the Four Powers, that Lord Ponsonby formally declared on that day in Conference, that he had positive orders from his Government to give to the Porte advice to grant hereditary tenure to Mehemet Ali, the moment the Porte should state that it was satisfied with Mehemet Ali's submission. But Lord Ponsonby properly, as it appears to me, declined to take upon himself the responsibility of deciding whether the submission of Mehemet Ali was satisfactory and complete or not.

But what, on that occasion, was the course pursued by the Internuncio with respect to the fulness of the submission? He was first of opinion that it was complete, and then of opinion that it was not complete, but only a beginning of submission. But with regard to the advice to be given to the Porte in the event of the submission being to be considered complete, what did he say? Why, first he read a paper which he had previously prepared, in order that his meaning might be perfectly clear and distinct, and that he might express "*toute la pensée*" of his Government, and in that paper he distinctly confined himself to recommending the "re-installation" of Mehemet Ali in his Pashalic of Egypt, without saying one word about hereditary right; and then, afterwards, when Lord Ponsonby stated that he for his part had positive orders to advise the grant of hereditary tenure, the Internuncio distinctly stated that he had no precise instructions on that point, though he added that he would, in virtue of his general instructions, take upon himself to follow the example, in this respect, of the British Ambassador. Thus, then, it appears that the Austrian Government having in October declined, upon a ground of form, to give to the Internuncio the same instructions which Her Majesty's Government had given to Lord Ponsonby upon the question of hereditary tenure, had, though within ten days' reach of Constantinople, left the Internuncio, up to the 20th of December, without any precise instructions for his guidance on this point; and then the Austrian Government, endeavouring to throw upon the British Government and British agents the blame which belongs wholly to its own neglect, attempts to charge Her Majesty's Government with having purposely abstained from doing that which it is proved by the Protocol of the 20th of December, the British Government alone out of all the Four had fully and completely done.

I do not deem it necessary to enter at length into the other topics of your Excellency's despatch.

Austria must of course judge for herself as to the line of conduct which she may think most consistent with her interests and her engagements, and Her Majesty's Government are well convinced that no temporary weakness or mistaken view as to the former, will induce her to forget the latter. But every body who casts their eye upon the map of Europe must have felt, that although the accession of Austria to the Convention of July was of the highest importance, and may indeed be said to have been an indispensable condition of the Alliance, yet the geographical position of Austria, and her complicated Continental interests, afford France many means of working upon her fears, and through her of swaying, in some degree, the march of the Allies; while, on the other hand, France has not the same means with respect to Great Britain or Russia.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 139.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 23.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 26, 1841.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of this day's date, I have to inform your Excellency that the Ottoman Commissioners arrived at Marmorice on the 8th instant, and that they immediately proceeded to Alexandria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 140.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 30, 1841.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 3 of the 3rd instant, reporting that you had been requested by Prince Meternich to state to me, that if the Porte should hesitate to accede to the recommendation of the Allied Powers, to confer the hereditary Government of Egypt upon Mehemet Ali, the Austrian Court does not admit that the Allies can allow themselves to be committed by such hesitation; I have to instruct your Excellency to state to Prince Meternich, that it seems probable that when that recommendation shall have been given by the Representatives of the Four Powers, the Porte will accede to it; but that, at the date of the last despatches which have been here received from Constantinople, it did not appear that the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian Representatives had received from their Courts instructions to the same effect as those which had been long since sent upon this point to the British Ambassador.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 141.

Sir John Barrow to J. Backhouse, Esq.

Sir,

Admiralty, January 26, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you inclosed copy of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, with its inclosures from Captain Stewart and General Michell, from which it will appear that Ibrahim Pasha is on his retreat from Damascus by the Mecca road; and I am to request that you will lay the same before Viscount Palmerston.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) J. BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 141.

Admiral Sir Robert Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

Sir,

*"Princess Charlotte,"**Marmorice, January 13, 1841.*

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date No. 16, I have to acquaint you, that the "Gorgon" has arrived and brought the inclosed despatches from Captain Stewart and General Michell, from which it will appear that Ibrahim Pasha is on his retreat from Damascus by the Mecca road, to which it seems to have been their object to keep him. My orders to Commodore Sir Charles Napier may by this time have been the means of facilitating his retreat; but of this and the state of affairs at Alexandria, I shall take the earliest means of communicating as soon as I receive my despatches.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Inclosure 2 in No. 141.

Captain H. Stewart to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

Sir,

*British Head-Quarters,**Jaffa, January 10, 1840.*

BY the arrival of the "Gorgon" here last night, I have received your letters of the 5th and 6th instant. In pursuance of the intention stated to you in my letter of the 2nd instant, I joined Brigadier-General Michell at Acre. We remained there till the 6th, when, in consequence of communications from General Jochmus, the greater part of the Turkish troops prepared to advance on this place, and General Michell prepared to precede them here by steam, taking with him 100 marines under Captain Leonard, Colonel Colquhoun and his party of artillerymen with their guns; at the same time General Michell requested me to send orders for the "Magicienne" to embark Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins and the remainder of the British force at Beyrout, and to bring them to Acre, leaving instructions there for them to come on here, or remain there, as intelligence might render advisable. We reached this in the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate," (the "Dido" following,) on the 6th at sunset; and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, R.E. was immediately sent out to Ramla, (three hours distant from this place,) to communicate with Omar Pasha, who was there with a force of 2,500 men, (considerable bodies of Irregular Cavalry being ready to aid him,) intending to menace Gaza.

Omar Pasha was induced to delay his advance upon that place, until he had seen General Michell and myself: and the next day he came on here, when it was agreed to defer his offensive operations on Gaza until the arrival of the "Seraskier" from Acre, and intelligence from General Jochmus. The latter General reached this from Jerusalem yesterday morning early; and we find that he has given such orders as will complete a line of twenty-eight battalions betwixt this place and Jerusalem, and that all will be in position by sunset this evening. The chief object of this advance seems to be to induce Ibrahim Pasha to retire by the desert, and not by the coast. We have been somewhat in doubt and suspense as to which road he would retire by; but news reached the Seraskier last night, which is believed to be authentic, stating, that Ibrahim Pasha's vanguard was already thirteen hours' march to the south-east of El-Mezerib, and that, consequently, there was no longer any doubt of his taking the desert route.

There is still a force of above 3,000 men, chiefly Cavalry, close to Gaza, but it is believed they will very shortly retire. The troops at El-Arish are said to be very few. The Turkish troops, which the Seraskier left at Antioch, Tripoli, &c., are advancing on Damascus, and very shortly the whole of the Ottoman force will be in a situation to advance south as Ibrahim retreats. It is very difficult to get information, and still more so to know how much to

believe; but my own opinion and (what is of much more importance) General Michell's opinion is, that Ibrahim is positively evacuating Syria. It will be necessary to make certain of this before we are quite at ease about Acre; and I shall, therefore, keep the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate" here until we are so. So soon as that is the case I will send "Vesuvius" to take invalid marines and "Zebra's" men as you direct; and in the mean time shall desire the "Dido" to go off to Kaiffa, and embark as many of the "Zebra's" men as she can conveniently; and should there be no apprehension entertained at Acre, the "Dido" will proceed to join you at Marmorice. This place appears to be airy and healthy, and the men have got very wholesome quarters: on that and other considerations, I think the General will probably retain his head-quarters here for the present; so soon as he is quite at ease I shall return to Beyrout, leaving, if possible, the "Hecate" here, should he request it. We have had most beautiful weather; but I have recommended to all the Captains and Commanders to put to sea the moment it threatens to blow (the sailing ships keeping their courses and topsails reefed, and anchored with a good offing,) and to retire when moderate.

It has been reported that Ibrahim retires only with his Egyptians, all the Syrians having either left him or been discharged. He has been throwing out very strong foraging parties from El-Mezerib to considerable distance, which have terrified the inhabitants and kept us somewhat uneasy, making the acquisition of correct intelligence still more difficult.

I write in very great haste, as the "Gorgon" must leave this by 11 A.M., to insure her reaching your flag on the 13th. The "Gorgon" takes up Dr. Niddy and Lieutenant Sand, R.M., who were apparently at the last extremity at Acre, and saved by Captain Davies kindly agreeing to receive them on board the "Dido," till an opportunity offered for Beyrout or Marmorice. I am happy to say, that there is a most decided improvement in the health of the marines at Acre, since the establishment of the Convalescent Hospital at Abdallah's Palace. It is the General's intention, should he remain here, to have the whole effective force down here; and I shall send all men not strong to Marmorice. Mr. Robertson, Assistant-Surgeon of "Benbow," is moving here with the head-quarters by General Michell's desire; and we brought down the Assistant-Surgeon of the "Zebra" to take charge until Mr. Robertson's arrival.

The "Magicienne" arrived off this place yesterday evening; but Colonel Higgins, his guns and stores, remain on board until we gain perfect information of Ibrahim's retreat, in case it should be advisable to reinforce Acre, which we do not think likely.

The "Hazard" is at Sidon with discretionary power to move to Tyre, should he think Sidon an unsafe anchorage.

General Michell and I are both determined to confine ourselves strictly to precautionary and defensive measures; and we shall use every endeavour to prevail upon our Allies to do the same, and not to obstruct, but rather to facilitate, Ibrahim's retreat.

Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun being withdrawn from Acre, the General would be very glad that another Field-Officer was sent to command there. The Deputy Commissary-General has not yet arrived here, and consequently no demand for money from Malta can be forwarded; but I shall speak to him on the subject immediately he comes. Captain Henderson will speak to you, by the General's desire, as to the possibility of its being sent up by your orders without delay, as it is much wanted.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain.

P.S.—So many marine subalterns are sick and absent that the General would feel greatly obliged by one or two being sent down. If I have an opportunity I will lend one from the "Benbow."

Inclosure 3 in No. 141.

Brigadier-General Michell to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

My Dear Sir,

Jaffa, January 10, 1841.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt, by the "Gorgon" steamer, late last evening, of your communications, public and private, of the 6th of January, together with despatches from London and from Constantinople. It being necessary for the steamer to return to you at Marmorice by the 13th, and therefore to start this morning, there is only time to send, for the purpose you mention, a brief abstract of the military events in Syria up to the present day. My last despatches to Viscount Palmerston and to Viscount Ponsonby are of 31st December and 1st January; and you are already acquainted with the contents of them by means of my letters and those of Captain Houston Stewart.

It will be impossible now to prepare any additional official statements. I must therefore, my dear Sir, beg of you to convey to their Lordships, with my apologies, the substance of the inclosed Memorandum.

It is principally a compendium of General Jochmus's reports and observations. Soliciting your indulgence for the haste and imperfection of my Notes,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD MICHELL.

P.S.—From the reports of my own staff-officers near the Jordan, I have reason to believe that the accounts given to General Jochmus of the Egyptian loss upon the march are exceedingly exaggerated.

Inclosure 4 in No. 141.

Memorandum as to Military Events in Syria.

December 21 to December 30, 1840.—ORGANISATION of the *levée en masse* of the whole of Syria south of Beyrout and of Damascus. The mountaineers under arms calculated at 15,000 men, including the Hauran.

December 27, 1840.—El-Mezerib, an advanced post one day's march south of Damascus, abandoned by the Egyptians, and the stores and forage which Ibrahim Pasha had collected there for his retreat by Palestine and Gaza into Egypt, taken by the mountaineers.

December 29, 1840.—Ibrahim Pasha evacuates Damascus; 2,000 Koordish Cavalry desert, besides numerous bodies of Artillery and of Irregular Infantry.

December 30, 1840, to January 2, 1841.—Ibrahim Pasha retires through El-Kissoria, and again occupies El-Mezerib; pursued by 2,000 Light Horse under Captain de l'Or, Aide-de-camp to General Jochmus, and experienced heavy losses by desertion, by the sword, and by the severity of the weather.

January 3, 4, 1841.—Ibrahim remains at El-Mezerib to organize his troops and convoys. His plan of moving across the Jordan, through Palestine by Djounie and Ramla, to the coast, frustrated by the Emir Bechir arriving with 7,000 men, 1,500 Light Horse, at Tabaria; and by the defiles of Djounie being occupied by the mountaineers of Nablous, whilst the regular army of twenty-eight battalions occupies, by a march along the sea-shore, a line from Sidon to Mount Carmel, Jerusalem being also garrisoned.

January 5, 1841.—Ibrahim begins his march into the desert by the Caravan-road, towards Mooca and Suez; his force apparently reduced to 15,000 Infantry, 5,000 Horse, and a party of Artillery of upwards of 100 pieces. He was said before to have 217 guns. He has besides immense convoys, with women, servants, baggage, &c., &c. The son of the Governor of Jerusalem with Baron du Mont, Aide-de-camp to General Jochmus, sent to raise the Bedouins of Chebib, Chalib, (Mount Hebron,) and those of the desert, for the purpose of destroying the forage and provisions at Marira, eight days' march into the desert.

English staff officers moving with the Mountain Levies of Lebanon, of Nablous, of Ageloun, and with detached corps of Abainains, &c.; others stationed at Sidon, Tyre, Acre, Jerusalem, Ramla.

The losses of Ibrahim Pasha in killed, prisoners, and deserters have been estimated at 10,000 or 15,000 men up to the period of his leaving El-Mezerib, but correct accounts have not yet been obtained.

A Cavalry camp of 3,000 Egyptians, sent by Mehemet Ali from El-Arish, is still established south of Gaza; but these troops are likely to retire when they hear that Ibrahim marches into the desert, and not through Palestine or Gaza.

[The above is extracted principally from the reports and observations of General Jochmus.]

December 29 to 31, 1840.—British head-quarters transferred from Beyrout to Acre.

January 6, 7, 1841.—British head-quarters moved from Acre and established at Jaffa.

January 9, 1841.—The new Seraskier Zecharia Pasha, General-in-Chief of the Turkish forces, arrives at Jaffa. General Jochmus also comes to Jaffa from the Jordan and from Jerusalem.

Principal points occupied by the Turkish regular forces:—Acre, Jerusalem, Defiles of Djounie, Jaffa, and Ramla.

The troops which crossed the Taurus, or came from the north-east with the new Seraskier, moving southwards, partly through Balbec and Cælo-Syria, partly by the coast, through Tripoli and Beyrout, towards Acre.

(Signed) EDWARD MICHELL,
Brigadier-General.

No. 142.

Sir John Barrow to J. Backhouse, Esq.

Sir, Admiralty, January 26, 1841.
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, and of its inclosures, containing information respecting the evacuation of Syria by the troops of Mehemet Ali, and I have to request that you will lay the same before Viscount Palmerston.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) J. BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Admiral Sir Robert Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

Sir, "Princess Charlotte,"
Marmorice, January 12, 1841.
IN obedience to their Lordship's directions, signified in your letter of the 15th of December last, No. 447, to despatch a special steam vessel to Marseilles, with the latest possible intelligence from the Levant, conformably to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, I have the honour to acquaint you, that immediately on the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, I despatched the "Gorgon" to Acre, in order to obtain such intelligence from Brigadier-General Michell, who by my last accounts had proceeded thither from Beyrout to watch Ibrahim Pasha's movements, and on her way back to touch at Beyrout, and procure the latest accounts there from Captain Stewart of the "Benbow," stationed at that place in charge of the coast of Syria; and I now hold the "Hydra" in readiness to start for Marseilles agreeably to their Lordships' orders, with the further information expected by the "Gorgon."

In the mean time their Lordships will observe, on reference to my letters noted in the margin*, that the objects of Government are so far anticipated as particularly detailed in those letters, which could not have arrived at the date of their Lordships' orders.

Captain Fanshawe having returned from Constantinople on the 1st instant, I inclose the reports of his proceedings, and of a letter which I have received through Her Majesty's Ambassador from the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs, calling upon me, in terms of the IVth Article of the "Acte Séparé" of the Convention of the 15th of July last, to assist in the delivering up of the Turkish fleet, if necessary. I accordingly despatched Commodore Sir Charles Napier (his Convention having been approved of by Her Majesty's Government with some exceptions) to Alexandria on the 6th instant, in the "Stromboli," to await the arrival of the Commissioners, with instructions to give every facility in communicating Mehemet Ali's orders for the recall of Ibrahim and the evacuation of Syria, agreeably to a requisition from the former to that effect: and this I did in order to give all possible countenance to a satisfactory settlement of this long-agitated question, as well as to remove any pretence that might be raised against it.

The Ottoman Commissioners arrived here on the 8th, and proceeded on immediately to Alexandria with a letter from me to Commodore Napier, of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

Captain Fanshawe to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Stromboli,"
Constantinople, December 18, 1840.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I arrived at Therapia in this vessel, at 1 P.M., on the 16th instant. I immediately waited upon his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, and delivered to him your despatches and the translation of Mehemet Ali's letter to the Vizier, of which I was the bearer. His Lordship gave me to understand that the Sublime Porte was disposed not to accept any proposals from Mehemet Ali, but that some days might elapse before a decision was come to, and that he would inform the Vizier I was arrived with the letter from Mehemet Ali, in order that he might fix a time for receiving me.

I decided therefore on proceeding to Constantinople in the "Stromboli," that she might coal and water, and having addressed the letter to Lord Ponsonby, a copy of which I inclose, came down in her to the Golden Horn, yesterday morning. I have this morning had an interview with His Highness the Vizier, and presented Mehemet Ali's letter to him, and also the one for the Governor of Candia, and repeated to him what had passed between Mehemet Ali and myself, on making known to him the determination of the Allied Powers. His Highness having read the letter, expressed a similar opinion, that no terms with Mehemet Ali would be acceptable to the Porte, and wished me to wait upon Rechid Pacha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I told him my duty ended with putting Mehemet Ali's letter into his hands, and that all discussion of the question rested with the Ambassador; but that if the Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed a wish to have any communication with me, I should be ready at any time to wait upon him.

I understand a meeting of the Council of State and the Ambassadors of the Allied Powers is to take place on the 20th, to discuss the question of Egypt.

I await here Lord Ponsonby's directions for my further guidance, and I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

* No. 142, November 18. Nos. 150 and 152, December 10. No. 155, December 14.

P.S.—Her Majesty's ship "Talbot" is at the Arsenal; also a Turkish ship of the line, a frigate, and a corvette, two brigs, and two schooners preparing for sea; a ship of the line, one brig, and the schooners in a forward state.

The Austrian steamer of war "Marianne" is here, also a Russian schooner and steamer of war, and the French brig "Flèche" is at Therapia.

Inclosure 3 in No. 142.

Captain Fanshawe to Viscount Ponsonby.

*Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Stromboli,"
Therapia, December 17, 1840.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my interview with your Lordship yesterday, I have now the honour to inclose to you a copy of the Note which I gave to Mehemet Ali, on the 8th instant, after having communicated the contents to him verbally, and which your Lordship will perceive is strictly in conformity with the instructions from Lord Palmerston which I received from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, on being directed by him to proceed to Alexandria for that purpose. On the third day after my arrival at Alexandria, I received from Boghos Bey the translation, which I presented to your Lordship yesterday, of the letter or written engagement from Mehemet Ali to the Vizier, the original of which I am the bearer of, and which I subsequently received from Mehemet Ali himself; and I beg leave also to take this opportunity of reporting to your Lordship, that in both the interviews I had with Mehemet Ali, he expressed himself desirous of yielding entirely to the Sultan's command, in the hope the intervention of the Allied Powers and the mediation of England, with which he seemed much pleased, would obtain for him the tenure of Egypt. He laid stress upon holding the guarantee set forth in the Convention recently made with him by Commodore Napier, but I gave him to understand clearly, that Convention had not been ratified by the Admiral Commander-in-Chief, and that I had no guarantee to offer him.

I urged him at once to give up the Ottoman fleet, on which subject he pledged himself most earnestly, that he would give it to any officer whom the Sultan might name to take charge of it, immediately he arrived at Alexandria, or to the English Admiral, if so ordered, that he would lend his own officers and men to assist in navigating it, and that as far as he was concerned it should be ready to leave the port five days after the arrival of the Sultan's officer, and that he had already given orders for its preparation (which from the information I received at the Arsenal I believe was the case). At the first interview he promised to comply with my requisitions as to time, the translation of the documents to be given to me, and their being sent under flying seal; and he did so; and at my suggestion gave me a letter to the Governor of Candia, directing him to yield up the Island to the Sultan's Authorities, and to be prepared to quit it with the Egyptian troops: in short, he said he would do all that was required of him.

With respect to the immediate evacuation of the Holy Cities, I was informed that the troops remaining in them, amounting to about 2000, were left only for the purpose of maintaining order and security, and would be instructed to quit them on receiving the Sultan's commands, or on the arrival of Turkish troops.

I shall proceed in the "Stromboli" to-day to Constantinople, that she may take in coal; and I shall be prepared to wait on the Vizier, with Mehemet Ali's letter to him, when I receive from him the intimation of his wish to see me; and unless your Lordship should wish the steamer to return to Therapia, I shall await in her, at the Golden Horn, your Lordship's instructions for my further guidance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

Inclosure 4 in No. 142.

Captain Fanshawe to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

*Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Stromboli,"
off Tenedos, December 30, 1840.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your orders to me to proceed to Constantinople, and to my letter to you of the 18th instant, I have now the honour to acquaint you that I had no communication from his Excellency Lord Ponsonby from that date until the 27th, when I received a letter from him, relative to the conveyance of Turkish Commissioners in this vessel to Alexandria; and I beg to inclose you copies of the correspondence that in consequence passed between his Lordship and myself, through Mr. Doyle, on the subject; and also to state, that, in pursuance of the intimation from his Lordship, that he was "not aware of anything within his competency" which could be the cause of my detention at Constantinople, and having yesterday afternoon received the accompanying despatch from him for you, I quitted the Golden Horn in the "Stromboli" at 9 P.M. yesterday, and am proceeding in her to rejoin you at Marmorice.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

Inclosure 5 in No. 142.

Mr. Doyle to Captain Fanshawe.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Therapia, December 26, 1840.

I AM desired by Lord Ponsonby to inform you, that he has this evening received from the Ottoman Minister a message, asking him whether or not Commissioners, who are about to be sent by the Sublime Porte to Alexandria, can have a passage in the "Stromboli" to that port.

I am desired further to say, that the Ottoman Ministry wish for an answer to the above inquiry to-morrow morning; and that Lord Ponsonby hopes it may be convenient to you to send a reply at an early hour to the house of Mr. Frederick Pisani, so that it may be forwarded to Therapia without delay. The Minister has not told Lord Ponsonby on what day the Porte will be ready to despatch the Commissioners, but it is to be supposed it will be very soon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 6 in No. 142.

Captain Fanshawe to Mr. Doyle.

*Her Majesty's Ship "Stromboli,"
Constantinople, December 27, 1840, 9 A.M.*

Sir,

IN reply to the letter which I have just received from you, I have to request you will acquaint his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, that Her Majesty's ship "Stromboli" not being fitted for the conveyance of passengers, and therefore without spare cabins, and as I do not know the rank or number of the Commissioners whom the Sublime Porte is desirous of sending to Alexandria, or the length of time they may be required to remain on board of her there in quarantine, I am unable to say that they would have such accommodation in her as they may desire; though of course if his Excellency makes the requisition for their passage, specifying the number and rank of the persons going, I

will give Captain Williams directions to prepare the best accommodation he can for them.

I beg also to state that my orders are, to rejoin the Admiral Commander-in-Chief at Marmorice, in my way back to Alexandria, should my return thither be required.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR FANSHAWE,
Captain.

Inclosure 7 in No. 142.

Mr. Doyle to Captain Fanshawe.

Sir, *Therapia, December 27, 1840.*
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, which I have communicated to his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, who begs me to say, that it is not in his power to give you the information you require, but that he has forwarded your letter to the Ottoman Minister, and will make you acquainted with the reply as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 8 in No. 142.

Mr. Doyle to Captain Fanshawe.

Sir, *Therapia, December 28, 1840.*
I AM desired by Lord Ponsonby to acquaint you, that he has this moment received an official communication from the Ottoman Minister saying, that in consequence of the difficulty there would be in arranging the conveyance of the Ottoman Commissioners in Her Majesty's steam vessel "Stromboli" to Alexandria, the Porte has ordered a Turkish steamer for that purpose.

The Minister has expressed, in the name of the Porte, the obligation felt for the friendly disposition of Her Majesty's Government, as it is manifested in the assistance that has been afforded on this occasion.

I am further directed by Lord Ponsonby to say, that the Sublime Porte, having decided upon adopting the above-mentioned mode of acting, Lord Ponsonby is not aware of any thing within his competency which can be the cause of your detention here, and Lord Ponsonby will take the liberty of sending you a letter for the Admiral.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PERCY W. DOYLE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 142.

Viscount Ponsonby to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford.

Sir, *Therapia, December 28, 1840.*
I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your information, copy of a Note I received this evening from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, wherein his Excellency refers to paragraph 4 of the Separate Article of the Convention of the 15th of July, and requests the assistance of Her Majesty's Naval Forces as therein specified.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 10 in No. 142.

Rechid Pasha to Viscount Ponsonby.

*Sublime Porte,
le 27 Décembre, 1840.*

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

JE me suis empressé de mettre sous les yeux du Sultan le Protocole de la Conférence du 20 de ce mois, et j'ai l'ordre d'informer votre Excellence que Sa Majesté Impériale, voulant constater par un nouvel acte ses sentimens de modération, est disposée à accepter la soumission de Méhémet Ali, et qu'elle n'attend que l'accomplissement des obligations qui lui sont imposées par le Mémoire de la Conférence de Londres du 14 Novembre, pour considérer cette soumission comme accomplie, et pour confirmer Méhémet Ali dans le Pachalic de l'Egypte.

Dans le but de hâter cet accomplissement et de mieux prouver ainsi son désir de s'associer, autant qu'il est en son pouvoir, aux vues de ses Augustes Alliés, le Sultan a décidé que Yaver Pacha (l'Amiral Walker) et Mazloum Bey se rendront incessamment en Egypte, en qualité de ses Commissaires, pour recevoir la flotte Ottomane, et pour s'assurer de l'évacuation, par les troupes de Méhémet Ali, des lieux désignés dans le Mémoire du 14 Novembre.

J'ai l'ordre de prier en même tems votre Excellence de vouloir bien inviter M. l'Amiral de Sa Majesté Britannique à assister, aux termes du paragraphe 4 de l'Acte Séparé de la Convention du 15 Juillet, à la remise qui sera faite de la flotte entre les mains des dits Commissaires.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) RECHID,
La Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 143.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 29, 1841.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Chekib Effendi called on me yesterday, to ask my advice as to what he should write to Rechid Pasha upon the question of giving to Mehemet Ali hereditary tenure in the Pashalic of Egypt,—a grant which, he said, the Porte is extremely desirous of not being pressed to confer. I told him that, undoubtedly, I could not but admit the force of the objections which have been urged against this grant, and that it would be very much better, both for the interest of the Sultan and for that of his Egyptian subjects, if the Sultan could reserve to himself the same unfettered discretion in the selection of future Governors of Egypt, which he exercises with respect to the choice of Governors for the other provinces of his Empire. But I said, that in all affairs one must be content with what is practicable, and ought not to endanger what has been obtained by striving after that which is unattainable. I said, that it is clear that Mehemet Ali has made his submission in the expectation that he should obtain hereditary tenure in Egypt: now if, after all, this tenure were to be refused to him, what would probably be the consequence?—renewed revolt, or an attitude, at least, of passive resistance. What would then be the remedy? Such a state of things could not be allowed to continue, because if it lasted, it would amount to the separation of Egypt from the Turkish Empire. But the Sultan has not, at present, naval or military means sufficient to enforce his authority, in such a case, over Mehemet Ali in Egypt. The Sultan would, therefore, be obliged to have recourse for aid to his Allies. But the measures hitherto agreed upon by the Four Powers in virtue of the Treaty of July, are confined to the expulsion of the Egyptians from Syria, Arabia, and Candia, and to the driving of Mehemet Ali's forces and authorities back within the limits of Egypt. If, then, the Sultan were to apply to the Four Powers for assistance to attack Mehemet Ali in Egypt itself, a new deliberation of the Conference would become necessary.

Now, I said to Chekib, I could tell him beforehand what would be the result of that deliberation, if the assistance asked for by the Sultan were required in consequence of the Sultan's refusal to comply with the advice given him by the Four Powers, to confer upon Mehemet Ali hereditary tenure of his Egyptian Pashalic. I said I knew perfectly well that the Four Powers would decline giving the Sultan such assistance; and what then would happen? Why, the Sultan would, in consequence, find himself, for want of sufficient means of his own, obliged to grant to Mehemet Ali with a bad grace, and after an ineffectual attempt to avoid doing so, that which he might now make a merit of conferring willingly; and thus, instead of performing, as he now may do, an act of Sovereign Power at the suggestion of his Allies, he would appear to all the world as making an extorted concession to a subject.

I said that I would not, like the Austrian Government, attempt to represent as being of no value or importance a sacrifice which is unquestionably a great one, because such a representation could not convince the Sultan. But I begged Chekib Effendi to request his Government to consider the immense importance of the moral and physical strength which the Sultan has gained by the events of the last few months, and to remember that all which the Sultan has gained, Mehemet Ali has lost. That thus their relative positions have been so entirely changed, that the Pasha can never again become really dangerous or seriously troublesome to the Sultan, if the Sultan avails himself properly of the stipulations of the Treaty of July; and if he shall well organize his army, navy, and finances, and shall place those branches of his public service upon an efficient footing. I desired Chekib Effendi to bear in mind that the Sultan has recovered, for his direct authority, the whole of Syria, Arabia, and Candia: points which, with reference to military, naval, financial, and religious considerations, are of the utmost importance, and for the recovery of which the Sultan would, at this time last year, have gladly made very considerable sacrifices. I further reminded him, that a faithful execution of that stipulation of the Treaty of July, which says, that all the laws and treaties of the Empire are to apply to Egypt as to any other province, will afford a most essential security for the sovereign authority of the Sultan. I therefore requested Chekib Effendi to urge his Government to conclude this matter without further delay, because it is of great importance for all parties concerned, that it should be brought to a final settlement as soon as possible.

Chekib Effendi promised me to write to Rechid Pasha to this effect, and he said that he had no doubt that the Sultan will comply with the advice of his Allies.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 144.

Note from the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, to Chekib Effendi.

LES Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires des Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie, ont mûrement pris en considération la dépêche de Réchid Pacha en date de Constantinople le 13 Chawal, 1256, (8 Décembre, 1840,) que son Excellence Chékib Effendi, Ambassadeur de la Sublime Porte, a reçu l'ordre de communiquer au Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique ayant le Département des Affaires Etrangères, pour être portée à la connaissance des Représentans des Cours signataires de la Convention du 15 Juillet.

Cette communication énonce l'hésitation que Sa Hautesse le Sultan éprouvait à accorder à Méhémet Ali le Gouvernement héréditaire du Pachalic d'Egypte.

Les Soussignés, après avoir voué à l'objet de cette communication l'attention la plus sérieuse, ont résolu d'un commun accord d'inviter son Excellence Chékib Effendi à soumettre, à cet égard à la Sublime Porte, les considérations suivantes.

Ils se font un devoir de signaler d'abord, qu'à la date de la dépêche sus-

mentionnée de Réchid Pacha, les Représentans des Quatre Cours ne s'étaient pas encore acquittés collectivement auprès de la Sublime Porte de la démarche concertée à Londres le 15 Octobre. Et il résulte des informations les plus récentes reçues de Constantinople jusqu'à la date du 27 Décembre, que même à cette époque les Représentans des Quatre Cours ne s'étaient pas encore crus appelés à adresser au Ministère de Sa Hautesse les conseils qu'ils étaient chargés d'offrir.

Dans l'intervalle les intentions des Cours Alliées sont invariablement restées les mêmes. Séparées par de longues distances et sans avoir eu besoin de se concerter de nouveau, elles ont transmis à leurs Représentans à Constantinople des ordres qui portent le caractère d'une parfaite unanimité.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a adressé à cet effet à son Représentant à Constantinople des instructions sous la date du 17 Décembre, qui servent à confirmer expressément celles du 15 Octobre.

La Cour de Vienne a transmis à ce même sujet à M. l'Internonce des ordres positifs le 29 Décembre dernier.

Le Cour de Berlin s'est associée en entier aux instructions concertées en commun à Londres le 15 Octobre et le 14 Novembre.

La Cour de Russie a adressé le 23 Décembre à son Chargé d'Affaires à Constantinople des ordres conçus exactement dans le même esprit.

Les Soussignés, en rapportant ces faits, se permettent de croire que les conseils qui auront ainsi été donnés de la part des Représentans des Quatre Cours pourront avoir exercé une influence essentielle sur les opinions que Réchid Pacha a exposées dans sa dépêche susmentionnée du 8 Décembre, et fait disparaître les doutes que ce Ministre avait énoncés sur la marche ultérieure à suivre par la Sublime Porte.

Cependant, pour lever ces doutes, et pour éviter toute perte de tems, les Soussignés ont jugé utile de ne pas attendre des rapports ultérieurs de Constantinople; et sans différer plus longtems de répondre à la communication de son Excellence Chékib Effendi, ils ont cru de leur devoir d'exprimer encore une fois à M. l'Ambassadeur Ottoman, et de constater par écrit, l'opinion de leurs Cours respectives, telle qu'ils ont eu l'honneur de la lui communiquer déjà de vive voix.

Cette opinion invite le Sultan à user de sa clémence et de sa générosité souveraines de manière non seulement à révoquer l'acte de destitution prononcé contre Méhémet Ali, mais à lui accorder la promesse que ses descendants en ligne directe seront nommés successivement par le Sultan au Pachalic d'Egypte, chaque fois que ce poste deviendra vacant par la mort du Pacha précédent.

En conseillant à la Sublime Porte d'accorder cette faveur à Méhémet Ali, les Quatre Cours, loin de suggérer à Sa Hautesse une idée nouvelle, ne font que lui rappeler les intentions que le Sultan avait spontanément annoncées lui-même dès l'origine de la crise du Levant, intentions qui ont servi de base à la Convention du 15 Juillet.

De plus, les Quatre Cours, en adressant à la Sublime Porte le conseil que la présente communication est destinée à lui réitérer, ont la conviction de ne lui suggérer ni un arrangement dérogatoire aux droits de souveraineté et à l'autorité légitime du Sultan, ni une mesure contraire aux devoirs qu'il appartient au Pacha d'Egypte de remplir comme sujet du Sultan, nommé par Sa Hautesse pour gouverner en son nom une province de l'Empire Ottoman.

Cette vérité se trouve confirmée non seulement par les Articles 3, 5, et 6 de l'Acte Séparé annexé à la Convention du 15 Juillet, mais encore par les instructions que les Quatre Cours ont adressées à leurs Représentans à Constantinople à la suite de la délibération du 15 Octobre.

En effet, par l'Acte susmentionné § 5 il est stipulé que tous les Traités et toutes les lois de l'Empire Ottoman, c'est-à-dire tous les Traités et toutes les lois qui sont aujourd'hui ou qui pourront à l'avenir être en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman, s'appliqueront au Pachalic d'Egypte comme à toute autre province de l'Empire.

Cette condition, que les Quatre Cours regardent comme indispensable, constitue à leurs yeux l'un des liens les plus solides pour rattacher l'Egypte à la Turquie comme une partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman.

Le § 6 du même Acte porte que les forces de terre et de mer qui pourront être entretenues en Egypte, faisant partie des forces de l'Empire Ottoman, seront toujours considérées comme disponibles pour le service général de l'Etat.

Finalement, par l'instruction concertée à Londres le 15 Octobre, et confirmée par le Mémoire rédigé le 14 Novembre dernier, il a été formellement reconnu, que si Méhémet Ali ou l'un de ses descendants venait à enfreindre les conditions auxquelles le Gouvernement héréditaire d'Egypte lui aurait été confié, ce titre serait sujet à être révoqué.

Les Soussignés aiment à croire que la complète mise en vigueur des conditions susmentionnées répondrait pleinement aux intentions du Sultan; réaliserait tous les vœux des Quatre Cours Alliées, et accomplirait heureusement l'œuvre de pacification qui a fait l'objet de leurs engagements mutuels consacrés par la Convention du 15 Juillet. Car, en effet, par l'accomplissement de ces conditions, les objets sur lesquels s'est fixée la sollicitude et la prévoyance des Hautes Parties Contractantes, se trouveraient atteints.

Le Sultan serait désormais assuré de l'obéissance et de la soumission de son Pacha, Gouverneur d'Egypte; les populations de cette province seraient mises à l'abri de l'oppression, dont elles ont eu à souffrir durant ces dernières années par les abus de l'administration locale; enfin, Méhémet Ali obtiendrait pour lui-même et pour sa famille une position qui assurerait paisiblement son avenir, sans toutefois porter la moindre atteinte aux devoirs qu'il aura à remplir comme sujet de Sultan.

Les Soussignés, en portant ces considérations à la connaissance de son Excellence Chékib Effendi, le prient de les soumettre sans délai à sa Cour, et d'engager le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse à y vouer son attention la plus sérieuse.

Ils ont l'honneur d'offrir en même tems à M. l'Ambassadeur de la Sublime Porte Ottomane l'assurance renouvelée de leur haute considération.

(Signé) ESTERHAZY.
PALMERSTON.
BULOW.
BRUNNOW.
NEUMANN.

Londres, le 30 Janvier, 1841.

No. 145.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 20.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 30, 1841.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a Note which has been this day addressed by the Plenipotentiaries of the Four Powers to Chekib Effendi, who will send the original of it to his Government this day; and I have to instruct your Excellency to show this note to such of your Colleagues of the Conference of the Four Powers, as may not have received it from their Colleagues here.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 146.

Sir John Barrow to J. Backhouse, Esq.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 1, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, and of its inclosures, reporting that the Sultan's flag is flying on the Turkish fleet in the harbour of Alexandria, the recall of the Egyptian Army from Syria, and the entire submission of Mehemet Ali to the Sultan; and I am to request that you will lay the same before Viscount Palmerston.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 18.)
Sir,

"Princess Charlotte,"
Marmorice, January 14, 1841.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday, I have great satisfaction in acquainting you for their Lordships' information, that the Sultan's flag is now flying on the Turkish fleet in the harbour of Alexandria, having been hoisted on the 11th instant by Admiral Walker, and saluted by all the shipping in the Port. The Pasha has offered him every assistance, and he is now occupied in preparing the ships for sea, putting in here on their way back to Constantinople.

Orders have been sent by the Pasha, with my sanction, for the recall of his army from Syria; and by his entire submission to the Sultan I hope I may now congratulate Her Majesty's Government that this painful and embarrassing Eastern Question is at length happily brought to an end.

For a more particular statement of the circumstances attending the event, I refer you to Commodore Sir Charles Napier's letter of the 10th, which reached me by the "Stromboli" a few hours only after I had despatched the "Hydra" so as to be at Marseilles by the 20th; and to one from Admiral Walker with a *procès verbal* by Boghos Bey of the conversation between the Pasha and the Commodore previous to the surrender.

Considering this event of such infinite importance, I am anxious this should reach her Majesty's Government at the earliest period possible, and have despatched the "Gorgon" with it to Malta on account of the quarantine, with orders to Rear-Admiral Sir John Louis to forward a steamer to Marseilles with Lieutenant Edward Stopford, who has orders to proceed with it to the Admiralty with all possible despatch.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

*Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort," Alexandria,
January 11, 1841.*

I ARRIVED here in the afternoon of the 8th, and on anchoring, an officer came on board to compliment me in the name of Mehemet Ali, and to say His Highness would be glad to see me as soon as convenient.

I gave the officer to understand I was charged with despatches to Boghos Bey, and after I had delivered them I should have the honour of paying my respects to His Highness.

Between seven and eight in the evening, I repaired to the Palace and delivered to Boghos Bey your letter, and also put into his hands an extract of Lord Palmerston's instructions of the 15th of December, beginning with the words, "Now it is necessary that Sir Robert Stopford."

Boghos Bey, after some explanations on my part, did not seem to be much disappointed at the refusal of the Allies to give a guarantee, but he expressed his dissatisfaction at the word "Hereditary" not appearing in the letter of Rechid Pasha to the British Ambassador, and observed that there would be some difficulty with the Pasha, as he fully expected on his submission the "Hereditary Pashalic of Egypt" would be conferred on him.

On being introduced to the Pasha he was by no means in good-humour, and was evidently disappointed at the communication Boghos Bey had previously made to him.

I acquainted His Highness that I had directions to allow vessels to proceed to Kaiffa to embark the sick, wounded, women and children, and others of the Egyptian army, and that a British officer should accompany the person he sent

with directions to evacuate Syria, to see his orders carried into execution; and that I should give every assistance to fit out the Turkish fleet, which I regretted to see in the same state that I had left it. He observed that it was not his fault, that after the agreement I had made with him, the officer had been sent back from Syria with the agreement disallowed. I remarked that the difficulty was now obviated, that the agreement had been approved of in London with the exception of the guarantee.

To this he replied that he did not care so much about the guarantee, but the word "Hereditary" had been left out,—that Lord Palmerston's letter to Lord Ponsonby dated the 15th October, which had been made public, decidedly said the Porte would be strongly recommended to give him the Hereditary Pashalic; that in M. Guizot's speech to the French Chambers, he had declared that the Allies would recommend it; and in fine, that the agreement signed by Boghos Bey and myself stipulated that the fleet should be given up on receiving the Official Account that the Sublime Porte would confer on him the Hereditary Government of Egypt; that, notwithstanding this, in Lord Palmerston's instructions of the 14th November, communicated to him by Captain Fanshawe, the word "Hereditary" was left out. But nevertheless he had entirely submitted himself to the will of the Sultan, and asked for no terms, being convinced he would be confirmed in the fullest terms.

There was so much truth in these observations that I did not endeavour to combat them, and after some conversation on indifferent subjects, I took my leave, and was requested to see Boghos Bey the following morning after the papers had been translated and considered by the Pasha.

At eleven the next morning I waited on Boghos Bey, who again expressed to me the disappointment and dissatisfaction of the Pasha, not so much at the refusal of the guarantee as at the word "Hereditary" being left out in Rechid Pasha's letter; he said the Pasha had done everything he could to gain the goodwill of England; that the interests of Great Britain and Egypt were identified; and he again recurred to the reasons he had to believe he should enjoy the Hereditary Title.

I said I was not without hope that the British Government would still use their influence with the Porte to obtain that point, and that I should do everything in my power to forward the Pasha's wishes, and I had reason to believe they would be complied with.

He requested me to read that part of Lord Palmerston's letter approving of my Convention, which I consented to do, but to be considered as a private communication and not to go further; this he received with much satisfaction, and said if I would read it to the Pasha he was certain it would go a great way to tranquillize him. In the evening I again waited on Mehemet Ali, and I read to him the other part of Lord Palmerston's instructions, which had some effect in putting him in good-humour.

He however still lingered after Syria, and talked a good deal about the impossibility of quitting it till the Spring without a great loss of life and stores, and was anxious that the women and children, and the sick, should be allowed to embark at Beyrout or Sidon, or the most convenient place should the army be still at Damascus.

I observed on this, that the weather was better now than when the Convention was signed, and was improving every day. That I had no authority to allow any embarkation at Beyrout or Sidon, but that I should direct the officer in command of the Coast of Syria, to give every facility in his power; and that I felt satisfied the best way to ensure the British Government pressing the point of the Hereditary Government was, by throwing no difficulties in the way; that whether or no his son would succeed him; and as to a guarantee, he had shown it was more necessary to guarantee the Porte against him than him against the Porte. He was a good deal flattered at this observation, and at last consented to all I requested, and which I got in writing yesterday morning, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

The Egyptian steamer started yesterday afternoon, and I send copies of the orders I have written to the Senior Military and Naval Officers, as well as the instructions to Lieutenant Loring, which I trust will meet your approbation.

I really do think under all circumstances Mehemet Ali has behaved very well; both His Highness and Boghos Bey assure me of their good wishes to

Great Britain, and I feel positive if Lord Palmerston can obtain for him the Hereditary Pashalic of Egypt, he will have no occasion to regret it.

The Commissioners arrived yesterday afternoon, and Admiral Walker took command of the Turkish fleet to-day at noon.

Thus terminated this great Question, the solution of which (under your orders) I had the honour to commence at Djounie and finish at Alexandria.

I am happy to say that the Pasha has abandoned the monopoly of agricultural produce, except cotton, which may be exported on paying a duty of 12 per cent.

It is quite impossible to say at present what assistance Admiral Walker will require, and I do not like to detain the "Stromboli" lest she should be too late for the steamer going to Marseilles; but if you could spare "Castor" and "Daphne" they would be useful; and if you approve of it, I could call up "Dido," "Hazard," and "Magicienne," should they be required.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Boghos Joussouf to Commodore Napier.

Monsieur le Commodore,

Alexandrie, le 10 Janvier, 1841.

LA lettre que j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser aura pour objet de résumer, d'après le désir que vous en avez exprimé, les paroles que vous avez entendues de la bouche même du Viceroy mon maître, dans votre entretien de hier soir.

Le retard apporté à l'évacuation de la Syrie est indépendant de la volonté de Son Altesse. En conséquence de la Convention conclue avec vous le 27 Novembre dernier, Hamid Bey avait été envoyé en Syrie pour porter à Ibrahim Pacha les ordres du Viceroy. Vous connaissez, M. le Commodore, les raisons qui ont empêchés cet officier supérieur de remplir sa mission, et vous savez de quelle nature ont été les obstacles qui se sont opposés à ce que les dépêches de Son Altesse parvinssent à leur destination.

Le Viceroy, désirant toutefois vous donner une nouvelle preuve de son empressement à remplir ses engagements, est disposé à faire partir aujourd'hui même un bateau à vapeur pour porter de nouveau en Syrie Hamid Bey, qui sera chargé, conjointement avec l'officier Anglais désigné par vous, de transmettre les ordres au Général-en-Chef de l'armée Egyptienne. Aussitôt qu'Ibrahim Pacha en aura pris connaissance, il effectuera l'évacuation de la Syrie en dirigeant vers Kaiffa, si cela lui est possible, les femmes, les enfans, et malades, et en se mettant lui-même en marche vers l'Egypte, dans le cas où il ne serait pas déjà même en route avec son armée pour opérer sa retraite dans cette direction. Au moment où le retour de Hamid Bey nous aura fait connaître les dispositions prises par Ibrahim Pacha en exécution des ordres de Son Altesse, et lorsque nous aurons acquis la certitude que les malades, femmes et enfans, appartenant à l'armée Egyptienne, ont pu se rendre à Kaiffa, Son Altesse enverra, dans cette échelle, des transports destinés à assurer leur retour en Egypte.

Pour ce qui concerne la flotte Ottomane, je ne puis que confirmer ce que j'ai précédemment eu l'honneur de vous écrire, M. le Commodore—elle est prête à prendre la mer.

Telle est la substance des termes dans lesquels le Viceroy s'est exprimé avec vous, M. le Commodore. Son Altesse, en vous donnant ainsi un nouveau témoignage de sa déférence aux décisions des Puissances Alliées, a la conviction qu'elles hâteront l'exécution du Traité du 18 Juillet, en obtenant en sa faveur le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte; et qu'elles manifesteront leur intention d'assurer la pacification de l'Orient en la fondant sur des bases à jamais durables.

Je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Admiral Walker to Admiral Stopford.

(Private.)

My dear Sir,

*Her Majesty's Steamer "Stromboli,"
Alexandria, January 11, 1841.*

MEHEMET ALI has just delivered up to my charge the Sultan's fleet, with permission to take the Egyptian officers and men as far as Marmorice, which I intend to avail myself of; so it will not therefore be necessary to have any English officers to assist in getting them across. I have not been able to see Commodore Napier since I hoisted my flag, to inform him of Mehemet Ali's offer; and as the "Stromboli" is now under weigh, I have not time to add more than a request, that you will kindly pardon this hurried communication, and believe me to be, &c.,

(Signed) R. W. WALKER.

No. 147.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord,

Paris, February 1, 1841.

THE report of the discussion in the two Houses of Parliament on the address, in answer to the Queen's speech, has produced a most satisfactory effect upon the public here, as well as on the Government. The French people have been taught to believe by the late Ministry, by the greater portion of the press of this country, by many of their orators in the Chamber, that France had been treated contemptuously, that the Treaty of the 15th of July was an Alliance formed, not for the mere purpose of settling the Eastern Question, but with hostile intentions against France, or at least for the purpose of excluding France from all consultation with the other Powers on the general affairs of Europe, and withholding from her the influence to which she was entitled in their regulation.

The explanations given by M. Guizot in the Chambers had tended to undeceive the public, and, to a certain degree, the irritation of the nation had subsided. But the good feeling towards France which was manifested on both sides in both the Houses of Parliament, by all the speakers who took a part in the debate on the address, seems to have entirely dissipated the illusion which was practised on the public.

M. Guizot has, in the most explicit terms, expressed his satisfaction at the tenour of the debate; and seemed to consider it as an introduction to the re-establishment of that good understanding and concert, which it is desirable should subsist between all the Great Powers upon questions of general European policy. M. Guizot said, he was not prepared to make any proposition; but he referred to Marshal Soult's Note of 1839, which had been addressed to the Courts of London, of Vienna, of Berlin, and of St. Petersburg, and to which answers from each Court have been returned, corresponding very much with the sentiments expressed in that Note, as affording a basis of an arrangement between the Great Powers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 148.

Mr. Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, January 21, 1841.

THE revival of trade consequent on the prospect of a speedy settlement of affairs of the Levant, has caused the British merchants to express some anxiety as to the future.

I have on various occasions been applied to, on the subject of the Commercial Treaty concluded between Great Britain and the Ottoman Porte on the 16th of August, 1838, to know whether its provisions are to be immediately enforced, or to take effect in this country, in order that the merchants may regulate their commercial operations accordingly. Not having received any instructions from your Lordship, I am unable to give that definite information which is required, and have only been able to answer in general terms, that, although Mehemet Ali be confirmed in the Pashalic of Egypt, or even obtain the hereditary tenure of the same, that circumstance in no way alters his position as regards his allegiance to the Sultan, and the obligation he is under to regulate the Administration of the Government intrusted to him, in accordance with the Treaties in force in other parts of the Turkish dominions.

Mehemet Ali expresses himself greatly in favour of the Commercial Treaty, and professes anxiety to see it in vigour in this country; he has even gone so far as to throw open the importation of grain, seed, flax, and some other articles, on payment of the export duty established by that Treaty; but as the produce of the country is almost exclusively in his own possession, the benefit arising from this measure can only be felt by those few, who occupy lands on which the arrears of taxation claimed by Government have been paid. In fact, until a complete reform takes place in the internal administration of the affairs of Egypt, the Commercial Treaty will remain a dead letter, and will only have the effect of burthens the merchant with an additional import duty, without enabling him to reap the benefit in consideration of which that duty was increased.

Mehemet Ali will, I am confident, turn his attention to correcting the many serious abuses which exist; but he is, unfortunately, surrounded by advisers whose interest it is to maintain them, and who keep him as much in the dark as possible, as to the exactions of the Governors and others employed in the distant provinces. It is these exactions which reduce the cultivators of the soil to the lowest degree of misery, and effectually prevent them from liquidating the arrears of an accumulating taxation. As debtors to the Government they forfeit the crops of their lands, and these are seized and carried to the Government magazines, which are thus filled with the greater part of the produce of the country, and consequently the merchant who wishes to purchase for exportation, is compelled to supply himself from these stores at such prices as the Government chooses to fix. With a view to remedy these evils, Said Bey, the son of Mehemet Ali, is at present on an excursion into the interior of the country; he is to ascertain, with as much accuracy as lies in his power, the extent of existing abuses, and to report the same to his father.

I have no doubt but that some good will result from this measure, but I fear not to the extent required. To render this reform complete, Mehemet Ali must not only make great alterations in his internal administration, but also consent to heavy pecuniary sacrifices, by remitting a portion, or even the whole, of the debt which weighs upon the cultivator and paralyzes his energies.

It may be difficult to persuade Mehemet Ali at once to adopt those measures of reform; and even if adopted, it would require time to enable them to work well. But, should Her Majesty's Government deem the subject of sufficient importance to merit its attention, I feel confident that a simple

recommendation from your Lordship would at this moment have the greatest effect in stimulating the resolutions of Mehemet Ali, and produce the most beneficial results.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 149.

Mr. Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, January 22, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Commodore Sir Charles Napier arrived here on the 6th instant, with instructions from the Commander-in-Chief to make known to Mehemet Ali, that although the Allied Powers approved of the spirit of the Convention signed by the Commodore on the 27th of November, 1840, it nevertheless contained some stipulations respecting the guarantee required by Mehemet Ali for the hereditary Government of Egypt with which they could not comply, and to recommend that both the evacuation of Syria and the restitution of the Turkish fleet should be immediate and unconditional.

After a few interviews with Mehemet Ali, Sir Charles succeeded in obtaining the object of his Mission, and received a letter to that effect from Boghos Bey, in which he stated the willingness of Mehemet Ali to do all that was demanded of him, and expressing a hope that this prompt compliance with the wishes of the Allies, would induce them to recommend to the Sultan to grant him the hereditary Government of the Pashalic of Egypt. As Sir Charles Napier has already forwarded to your Lordship a copy of this letter with a detailed account of his proceedings, it is unnecessary for me to enlarge on the subject.

In accordance with an arrangement with Boghos Bey, Abdul-Hamid Bey and an English officer were despatched to Ibrahim Pasha with the order for the immediate evacuation of Syria; and on the same day (the 9th instant), Admiral Walker, accompanied by Mazloum Bey, arrived here, and on the following morning having hoisted his flag and taken formal possession of the fleet, immediately commenced fitting it for sea; and the preparations were carried on with such activity, that all the vessels are now on their way for Marmorice, with the exception of two, which will shortly sail.

The prospect of a speedy settlement of the Egyptian Question has given general satisfaction throughout the country, and the latent discontent and feverish anxiety previously existing among the native population has partially subsided.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 150.

Mr. Larking to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, January 23, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Ibrahim Pasha was yesterday reported to have arrived at Ramla, on his way to Gaza. A telegraphic despatch has this morning reached Mehemet Ali, that Solyman Pasha with the division under his command, amounting to 8,000 men, including some Cavalry and Artillery, has arrived at Suez.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

No. 151.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Larking.

(No. 7.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 4 of the 21st of January, reporting that you have been applied to on various occasions for information whether the provisions of the Commercial Convention of August, 1838, are to take effect in Egypt; and that in the absence of instructions, you have confined your replies to a general statement of your opinion, that under any circumstances, Mehemet Ali will be bound to conform to the treaties in force in other parts of the Turkish dominions.

You acted rightly in thus answering; and I have, moreover, to state to you, with reference to your further observations as to the fiscal abuses prevalent in Egypt, that as all the laws and treaties of the Turkish Empire are to apply to and to be executed in Egypt, as well as in every other province of the Empire, these local abuses will necessarily cease, and the Convention of August, 1838, will be carried into execution in Egypt as elsewhere.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 152.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Therapia, January 3, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the Grand Vizier's reply to Mehemet Ali's letter brought here by Captain Fanshawe. The Vizier's letter is committed to the care of Admiral Walker and Mazloum Bey, who are also appointed the Commissioners of the Sublime Porte to receive from Mehemet Ali the Ottoman fleet.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 152.

Reply of His Highness the Grand Vizier to Mehemet Ali.

(Traduction.)

J'AI pris connaissance du contenu de la belle dépêche que vous venez de m'envoyer en date du 17 Chewal (le 22 Novembre), et qui a été mise aussi sous les yeux de Sa Majesté Impériale.

On voit par la communication de Votre Altesse, que vous avez formé le dessein de faire véritablement votre soumission à Sa Hautesse, et qu'en preuve même de cela, vous avez pris le parti de rendre immédiatement la flotte Impériale, et de remettre sans délai certains endroits situés hors de l'Egypte.

L'intention et les bonnes dispositions que vous venez de manifester, étant d'un heureux présage pour l'adoption et la mise en pratique du bon système et des bons procédés voulus, Sa Hautesse les a justement appréciées.

Dans toutes ses affaires, dans tous ses procédés, la Sublime Porte, guidée par des sentiments équitables, a pour maxime de ne point s'écarter des règles de la modération.

C'est pourquoi Sa Hautesse est disposée à accueillir favorablement la soumission que vous avez offerte, et à pardonner à Votre Altesse complètement.

Aussitôt donc que, conformément à votre engagement, la flotte Impériale sera sortie du Port d'Alexandrie et expédiée avec tous les officiers et tous les

équipages, quelques personnes bien connues exceptées, et avec toutes les armes et toutes les munitions, et que les endroits qu'on sait auront été remis sans délai aux Commissaires de la Sublime Porte, et que ce seront là des faits accomplis; c'est-à-dire, lorsque la nouvelle positive en sera parvenue ici, il est décidé, résolu qu'alors Sa Majesté Impériale daignera réintégrer Votre Altesse dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte. Cette manière de voir de Sa Hautesse, et les opinions pacifiques et bienveillantes des Grandes Puissances, s'accordant parfaitement sur ce point, cette résolution a été portée officiellement à la connaissance de MM. les Représentans des Cours Alliées.

Son Excellence Mazloum Bey Effendi, l'un des Principaux Employés de la Sublime Porte, et Membre du Conseil de Justice, ci-devant Mustéchar de l'Amirauté, a été chargé de l'exécution des instructions nécessaires; et le Férîk de la Marine Impériale, le très-distingué Yaver Pacha, est chargé de prendre la flotte Impériale et de la conduire ici.

On laisse à votre sagacité à faire ce qu'il faut.

No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Therapia, January 10, 1841.

I TRANSMIT copies of correspondence between the Internuncio, Count Kœnigsmarck, M. Titow, and myself, upon the subject of a measure proposed by the Internuncio, and also the substance of an instruction I sent this day to the Dragoman, immediately after I had the honour to receive your Lordship's instructions by the messenger Townley.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

M. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, ce 7 Janvier, 1841.

LE BARON STURMER a eu ce matin avec Réchid Pacha une tête-à-tête de trois heures. Le Baron a communiqué des dépêches de sa Cour, lesquelles annoncent que les Quatre Puissances se sont décidées à demander l'hérédité pour Méhémet Ali. Voilà ce que Réchid Pacha m'a dit, en ajoutant que Lord Palmerston est parfaitement d'accord sur ce point, c'est-à-dire, de faire donner l'hérédité.

(Signé) **F. PISANI.**

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Baron Stürmer to Viscount Ponsonby.

Mon cher Vicomte,

Le 7 Janvier.

S'IL a pu nous rester quelques doutes sur les véritables intentions de nos Gouvernemens—du mien surtout, que d'après vos données vous m'aviez affirmé réitérément être opposé à la concession de l'hérédité à accorder à Méhémet Ali—les dépêches que j'ai reçues hier du Prince de Metternich sont bien faites pour les détruire complètement. Le Prince est impatient de savoir quelle suite j'ai donnée à ses directions précédentes, et auxquelles le Mémoire du 14 Novembre sert de base, et me dit et me répète, de la manière la plus péremptoire, que les Quatre Cours se sont prononcées pour que l'hérédité dans les fonctions de Gouvernement d'Égypte soit accordée à la famille de Méhémet Ali. La paix Européenne dépend de cette détermination, qu'ainsi nous devons

nous hâter de lui faire prendre si nous ne voulons pas nous exposer à la plus grave responsabilité.

Je vais en conséquence adresser à Réchid Pacha la lettre ci-jointe en copie, et la lui porter moi-même pour y ajouter de vive voix tous les développemens nécessaires. Il me paraît important surtout de lui faire sentir la nécessité d'adresser sur-le-champ à Mazloum Bey de nouvelles instructions, et de les faire partir dès demain, si cela est possible, pour le atteindre en route. La pensée de votre Cabinet étant absolument identique avec celle du mien, je ne doute pas que vous ne jugiez à-propos de vous expliquer dans le même sens envers la Porte.

Je vous avoue que ce n'est pas sans quelque regret que je vois ainsi s'évanouir l'espoir que nous avions de voir la puissance de Méhémet Ali s'écrouler de fond en comble; mais vous pensez sans doute avec moi que nos vœux ou nos desirs ne peuvent entrer ici en ligne de compte, et pour ce qui me regarde je n'hésite pas à déclarer, que rien au monde ne saurait me déterminer à leur sacrifier un devoir. J'ai consacré mon tems et mes veilles à faire connaître à mon Gouvernement la véritable situation des choses; c'est maintenant à lui à juger dans sa sagesse ce qu'il aura à faire; mon rôle est fini, et il ne me reste plus qu'à attendre en silence les ordres qu'il voudra bien me faire parvenir, et à les exécuter scrupuleusement. Je suis sûr d'avance que vous approuverez cette manière de voir, et je m'en félicite, car vous savez, mon cher Vicomte, quel prix j'attache à votre suffrage.

Chékib Effendi s'est avisé tout d'un coup de quitter l'Angleterre pour aller faire un voyage à Paris, sous la prétexte que sa santé exigeait un changement d'air. Lord Palmerston a cherché en vain à le retenir. Personne ne sait s'expliquer cette escapade, très-regrettable dans un moment où le Plénipotentiaire Ottoman aurait dû plus que jamais rester à son poste, et surtout à cause des soupçons qu'elle a dû faire naître. Réchid Pacha sera sans doute aussi surpris que nous de l'apprendre.

Votre dévoué,
(Signé) **STURMER.**

P.S.—Je vous prie de me renvoyer la copie de ma lettre à Réchid Pacha.

Sub-Inclosure in Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Constantinople, le 7 Janvier, 1841.

SI quelques doutes avaient pu tenir nos esprits en suspens relativement à la véritable portée du Mémoire du 14 Novembre, les dépêches que je viens de recevoir de ma Cour sont de nature à les dissiper complètement. Ces dépêches m'apprennent de la manière la plus positive que les Cours Alliées désirent vivement qu'il plaise à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan d'accorder à Méhémet Ali le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Égypte pour prix de sa soumission. Dès lors je ne saurais me dispenser de faire observer à votre Excellence, que par l'omission qui a été faite de la promesse formelle de l'hérédité dans la réponse du Grand Vizir à Méhémet Ali, et dans les instructions données aux Commissaires Ottomans, ces documens contiennent une lacune fâcheuse, et qu'il est d'une haute importance de remplir.

Je viens donc proposer à votre Excellence, et avec insistance, d'aviser le plus tôt possible aux moyens d'arrêter les suites d'une semblable omission.

Dans ma pensée, la Sublime Porte devrait, sans perte de tems, faire partir un bateau à vapeur directement pour Alexandrie, à l'effet d'adresser à Mazloum Bey des instructions qui l'autorisent à accorder à Méhémet Ali l'hérédité du Pachalic d'Égypte sous les conditions prévues dans le Mémoire.

En me permettant de donner ce conseil à la Sublime Porte, j'accomplis non seulement un devoir impérieux envers le Gouvernement que j'ai l'honneur de représenter ici, mais je crois l'éclairer elle-même sur l'état véritable d'une question qui touche de si près à ses intérêts présents et à venir, et qui par cela seul réclamerait déjà sa plus vive sollicitude, si des considérations d'un ordre non

moins élevé n'en recommandaient toutes les nécessités à sa plus sérieuse attention. Parmi ces nécessités il en est une surtout qui n'échappera pas à sa sagesse. La Sublime Porte comprendra aisément, qu'en combinant leurs généreux efforts pour le triomphe de l'ordre et de la légitimité dans ces contrées, les Cours Alliées n'ont pu perdre de vue, dans l'accomplissement de la tâche qu'elles se sont imposée, les autres intérêts engagés dans cette même question—intérêts plus spécialement Européens, et d'une trop haute gravité pour qu'elles puissent hésiter un seul instant sur les devoirs qu'ils leur imposent. C'est pour concilier ces différens et si puissans intérêts que les Cours Alliées ont cru devoir conseiller à la Sublime Porte d'accorder à Méhémet Ali l'hérédité du Pachalic d'Egypte.

Agréez, &c.,
(Signé) STURMER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to Baron Stürmer.

Dear Baron,

Therapia, January 7, 1841.

IT is late, between 10 and 11, and I will reply as briefly as possible to your letter which I have just received, in order not to delay your messenger. It is wholly indifferent what may be the private opinion of any of us as to this question, which is the affair of our Governments, and for which none of us are responsible; but it is another thing to act "without orders," and I will not incur "that" responsibility, and therefore I must decline acting in concert with you until I am authorized to take the steps you propose, by instructions to that effect. It is necessary I should acquaint our Colleagues and the Ottoman Ministers with my position, and I shall do so without loss of time. I have been repeatedly told by the best authority, including yourself, if I mistake not, that your Government had not decided to grant the hereditary right to Mehemet Ali; and at the Conference it did appear that you had no authority to mention that point. This matter, however, is not of a very recent date, and it is not at all impossible that more than one alteration may have taken place in the language or opinion of that Government, and that which is erroneous now, may have been right before, or possibly may be so again, for in this affair there has been a perpetual fluctuation of circumstances. If my Government has not sent me orders, it cannot be for want of time, as they would have reached me through Vienna as soon as the instruction you have received. I will not detain your messenger any longer, and I will only add, that I see no sacrifice of duty, or to duty, in this affair, the line being very plain which is to be followed, namely, to execute the orders which may be given by superior authority.

Believe me, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 153.

M. Ponsonby to Mr. Titow.

My dear Sir,

Therapia, January 7, 1841.

NO doubt you received from Baron de Stürmer the same communication he made to me late this night, of the measure he had to propose for the adoption of the Sublime Porte, and therefore I need not give you the trouble of any report thereof; and it will be enough that I inform you of the substance of my reply to the Baron, namely, that I must decline acting in concurrence with him on this occasion, as I have not received instructions from my Government that authorize me to do what he requires, &c., and that I see no reason why I should not have received instructions *via* Vienna, as soon as the Baron received those upon which he is acting. It may be superfluous to recall to your memory, that my conduct had been governed by the principle admitted by the Baron, and by yourself, and Count Kœnigsmarck; that the offers to be made by the Sultan of

favour, &c., were to be made upon the submission of Mehemet Ali, and that the Sublime Porte is the judge, whether or not submission has been made. Also, that the offer of the hereditary Government of Egypt was to be conceded to Mehemet "upon conditions." Now, the fact is, that at the Conference the Ottoman Minister denied the submission, and it was resolved that measures should be taken to put that question to the test of experiment, and the Sublime Porte has, in consequence, sent Commissioners to ascertain the fact. This is acting in perfect accordance with all the instructions I have received, and to make concessions previous to submission would be in direct opposition to them.

The next point I have to mention is the fact, that multiplied and positive instructions order me to call for the establishment of various most important conditions, upon which alone the hereditary Government of Egypt is to be granted to Mehemet Ali; and in the measure adopted by the Internuncio, I cannot perceive any security for the establishment of those conditions previous to the grant of the hereditary Government to Mehemet.

I do not know what you may think proper to do on this occasion, and I should think it wrong on my part to take any step except in concert with all my Colleagues, particularly in an affair of such importance as the present. I will, therefore, take the liberty to beg you will answer me upon this point, whether or not you give your concurrence to the step proposed by the Internuncio, and if it be not taking too great a liberty, I will also venture to request you to send it to me in the forenoon of to-morrow.

Believe me, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 153.

M. Titow to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, 27 Décembre, 1840.
8 Janvier, 1841.

ON m'a remis ce matin le billet que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire hier soir. Je ne puis qu'être vivement flatté de la confiance avec laquelle vous voulez bien me demander, My Lord, si je compte m'associer à la démarche proposée par M. l'Internonce. Je manquerais à mes devoirs si j'hésitais à y répondre avec une entière franchise.

La démarche dont il s'agit rencontre de la part de votre Excellence deux observations. La première est, que pour offrir à Méhémet Ali une faveur quelconque, la Sublime Porte avait à décider si la soumission est faite d'après la décision que Réchid Pacha nous a notifiée par ordre du Sultan. Sa Hauteesse considérera cette soumission comme accomplie, lorsque Méhémet Ali aura exécuté les conditions prescrites dans la réponse du Grand Vizir, en conformité du Mémoire du 14 Novembre; c'est sur une telle base que les deux Commissaires Ottomans ont été expédiés à Alexandrie. Quelle que soit la nature des concessions à accorder, elles ne pourront l'être que moyennant l'accomplissement effectif de ces ordres par la remise de la flotte, la consignment des provinces. La démarche actuelle de M. le Baron de Stürmer ne me paraît rien changer à ce principe.

La seconde observation est que l'hérédité ne peut être accordée qu'à de certaines conditions qui seraient passées sous silence dans cette démarche. Mais la nécessité de ces conditions est hautement proclamée par l'Acte Séparé du 15 Juillet, et par les Instructions Britanniques du 15 Octobre, dont le Mémoire du 14 Novembre est le complément. Elles ne sauraient donc, "en principe," être sujettes à aucun doute. Pour ce qui concerne "les développemens," les Cours Alliées paraissent n'avoir pas aperçu d'inconvénient à ce que la Porte ne les arrêtât qu'après mûre réflexion et après des pourparlers préalables, pour que M. le Prince Metternich n'a lui-même envoyé ici des instructions sur les conseils à donner à cet égard, qu'au moment où la première nouvelle de la Convention du Commodore Napier a fait supposer à Vienne que le fond de la question était résolu d'une manière définitive.

Raisonnant sur ces deux bases, je trouve pour m'associer à la dé-

marque actuelle de M. de Stürmer, les mêmes motifs qui ont dû me déterminer à partager le vote qu'il a émis dans notre Conférence; mon langage ne pouvait être dicté que par les pièces arrêtées à Londres, et transmises ici pour notre gouvernement. Nous avons observé dès-lors, que le Mémoire du 14 Novembre n'abrogeait point les ordres du 15 Octobre, relatifs à l'hérédité; mais comme il ne les reproduisait pas non plus d'une manière aussi explicite, nous avons cru avec M. l'Internonce, que les conseils prévus par le Mémoire pouvaient se borner à la simple réintégration du Pacha. Aujourd'hui nous n'avons pas en vue de nouveaux ordres, mais bien une interprétation donnée par une autorité aussi compétente que paraît l'être M. le Prince Metternich, pour juger de la pensée commune qui a présidé à la rédaction de cette acte. Je me trouve ainsi pour ma part d'autant moins autorisé à révoquer en doute la validité d'une pareille communication, que dans notre Conférence avec Réchid Pacha, votre Excellence a bien voulu annoncer de son côté; que les ordres du Cabinet Britannique l'appellent à conseiller non seulement la réintégration, mais aussi l'hérédité, une fois que la Porte aura statué sur la question de la soumission. Or, s'il est vrai que le Sultan ait décidé cette question de la manière exposée là-dessus, l'un de ces conseils soit de la sorte devenu applicable à la circonstance, l'autre n'en paraît plus être que l'inévitable complément.

En vous demandant bien pardon, My Lord, de la hâte avec laquelle j'écris cette réponse, j'en espère que dans ma résolution de concourir à la demande actuelle de M. l'Internonce, vous voudrez bien apercevoir le devoir invariable de régler ma conduite sur les indications qu'il nous est donné de puiser dans nos pièces officielles relativement à la pensée du Cabinet Britannique, qui, tout en marchant d'accord avec les autres Cours Alliées, figure en première ligne dans la question d'Egypte.

Veuillez, &c.,
(Signé)

TITOW.

Inclosure 6 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to M. Titow.

My dear Sir,

Therapia, January 8, 1841.

YOUR messenger has just arrived, and I will not at this late hour enter at large into the subject of your obliging letter, to which I will reply when I can do so more to your own satisfaction in discussing the subject. I will now confine myself to the expression of my regret that I cannot concur in the measure proposed; not in consequence of my want of respect for the opinion of Prince Metternich, but because I think I should act contrary to my duty if I permitted my acts to be guided by that Minister's instructions to the Internuncio, instead of waiting for the orders of my own Government.

I confess I am at a loss to comprehend the necessity or advantage belonging to the measure which has called for such hurried action. I do not perceive why what has already been done by the Sublime Porte should be the smallest obstacle to the grant to Mehemet Ali of *any thing more*, when the time clearly marked out in my instructions for making any such grant shall have arrived. You will recollect that it was late last night when I received the first intimation of this plan, and was called upon at once to adopt it, and I might upon that ground alone have been justified in declining to act until after consideration of the affair; but it is not on that account I have declined: it is because I am not authorized to supersede the authority of my own Government in directing my actions, and because I see no necessity whatever for taking upon myself the responsibility of so doing upon this occasion, when, as I view the matter, there is nothing to be gained by the proposed measure, and nothing to be lost by its non-execution.

I have troubled you with more than I intended to say at this moment,

and I will endeavour to be less prolix when I have the honour to offer some observations on what you have said, and to place my own conduct in a clear light.

Believe me, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 153.

M. Titow to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 9 Janvier, 1841.

JE dois à votre Excellence mille excuses de n'avoir pas répondu jusqu'à présent à son billet d'hier. Vos réflexions n'ont pu ne pas produire sur mon esprit une profonde impression. Je serais heureux de déférer complètement à votre opinion, que certes possède en sa faveur beaucoup d'arguments valides. Si je n'ai pu abandonner celle de M. l'Internonce, j'espère que votre équité rendra justice à mes motifs.

Nous avons à considérer deux choses, — le principe et l'opportunité de la mesure projetée.

Le principe que les Cours Alliées se sont décidées pour l'hérédité, je ne puis malheureusement le révoquer en doute, en prenant pour règle les instructions du 15 Octobre, où elle est mentionnée; le Mémoire du 14 Novembre, où elle n'est point abrogée, mais qui au contraire reproduit historiquement et en substance la pièce du 15 Octobre; enfin, l'explication positive donnée par M. le Prince Metternich, et combinée avec plus d'un indice qui vient à l'appui, dans les nouvelles d'Europe, dans les Débats Parlementaires, et dans les feuilles Anglaises et Françaises.

L'opportunité serait susceptible d'une discussion très-étendue. Elle ne saurait être épuisée dans les limites de cette lettre. Il me suffira d'exposer, que frappé comme je devais l'être de vos doutes à cet égard, et réfléchissant, d'un autre côté, aux importants motifs mis en avant par M. l'Internonce, je me suis surtout attaché, d'accord avec lui, à faire ressortir aux yeux de Réchid Pacha combien il est essentiel d'éviter tout ce qui pourrait devenir décidément *inopportun*, tout ce qui tendrait à trop engager l'avenir ou à tomber en contradiction avec le passé. Ainsi, nous avons conseillé, que si la Porte se décide à hâter l'annonce de l'hérédité, cette annonce ne soit pas formulée dans une nouvelle lettre à Méhémet Ali, mais tout simplement dans une instruction supplémentaire et confidentielle à Mazloum Bey; que cette instruction même ne contienne rien qui ressemble à une *donation* du droit d'hérédité, mais qu'on s'y borne à la *promettre éventuellement*, c'est-à-dire, après la stricte et préalable exécution de toutes les clauses nécessaires pour constater la soumission; que dans la même pièce il soit expressément dit que l'hérédité ne sera accordée si ce n'est *avec des conditions*, dont la base est indiquée d'avance par l'Acte Séparé du 15 Juillet, tandis que les détails en seront arrêtés par la suite; que si la Porte se décide à expédier cette instruction par un *pyroscaphe ad hoc*, l'objet ostensible de son Envoi n'aie rien de commun avec la question d'hérédité; enfin, que si ce navire trouve les Commissaires Ottomans soit partis d'Alexandrie, soit deboutis par le refus de Méhémet Ali d'obéir aux ordres consignés dans la réponse du Grand Vizir, on ne fasse aucun usage de l'instruction supplémentaire, et la rapporte, telle quelle à Constantinople. Circonscrire en de telles bornes, il m'a semblé, pour ma part, que la démarche ne dévierait point des principes arrêtés ici à la suite de la dernière Conférence, et n'affaiblirait en rien les droits solennellement reconnus à la Sublime Porte par les Cours signataires de la Convention.

Ne possédant pour instruction spéciale que celle de régler mon langage d'après les décisions de Londres, et n'ayant eu sous les yeux aucune pièce officielle qui modifie ce que nous en savons, j'aime à espérer que votre Excellence trouvera ma conduite conforme aux seuls éléments qui pouvaient me servir de règle en cette occasion. J'attache trop de prix à votre opinion pour ne pas tenir à cœur de paraître correct à vos yeux.

Apprenant qu'un courrier Britannique part ce soir, oserai-je vous prier, My Lord, de vouloir bien prendre sous vos auspices le pli ci-joint pour Londres.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur vient d'accorder un sabre orné de pierres précieuses à Sélim Pacha, et la Sta. Anna seconde classe en diamans à l'Amiral Walker, pour prix des exploits militaires en Syrie. Cette nouvelle m'a été bien agréable, et ne doutant pas qu'elle le soit aussi pour vous, My Lord, je me félicite de vous en informer.

Il ne me reste en conclusion que de demander pardon de la prolixité de cette lettre, et de vous faire agréer, &c.,

(Signé) TITOW.

Inclosure 8 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to M. Titow.

My dear Sir,

Therapia, January 9, 1841.

BEFORE I received your letter of this day's date, which reached Therapia between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, I had made my reply to Rechid Pasha on the subject that has occupied our attention, and I take the liberty of sending you a copy of it, thinking that it may be agreeable to you to know what I thought it my duty to say. I hope you will think I have stated in the most explicit manner the grounds upon which I act, and the duty I have to perform, and that I have not used a single argument to deter the Sublime Porte from conforming to the measure proposed by the Internuncio, though I suppose my refusal to concur in giving advice may operate in some degree against the measure.

I am much grieved that I have been obliged to differ from my Colleagues, and I have troubled you already with some of the reasons that make me persevere in the course I adopted, but there are other reasons which I have not stated, because they are founded upon the opinion I entertain as to the convenience and policy of the measure, which opinion may be very erroneous; whereas, there can be no doubt of my being right, when I am guided wholly by my own conviction of the nature of the duty I am to perform.

I am exceedingly obliged to you for having taken the trouble to explain to me your view of the subject: I might venture perhaps to offer some observations in reply, did I not suppose that the affair has been already settled by the opinion of the majority of my Colleagues.

I thank you very much for the information you have given me of the new instances of the magnificent generosity with which his Imperial Majesty is accustomed to reward merit wherever it is found proved by the performance of service.

I will forward with care your letter to London, but the messenger will not depart before to-morrow night.

I beg, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 153.

Count Kaenigsmarck to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Le 8 Janvier, 1841.

JE viens de recevoir à l'instant même le billet que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'écrire cette nuit. M. l'Internonce m'a invité en effet à appuyer la demande qu'il a faite hier à la Porte, et d'après la teneur générale de mes instructions, je crois devoir le faire, quoique plusieurs points me paraissent fortement parler en faveur des argumens de votre Excellence. M. de Stürmer m'écrit que M. de Titow fera appuyer également la dé-

marche ce matin par son Dragoman, et il me semble qu'il importe de ne pas faire croire en Europe d'une divergence d'opinions entre nous, car il reste toujours au Sultan d'agir selon ses convenances.

Je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) KENIGSMARCK.

Inclosure 10 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to Count Kaenigsmarck.

Monsieur le Comte,

January 8, 1841.

I HAVE just had the honour to receive your Excellency's reply to my letter of last night.

I regret that I cannot act with my Colleagues in this affair, without at the same time being wanting in the obedience due to my Government. It will be very unpleasant to give occasion, as your Excellency observes, to Europe, to suppose that there exists any difference of opinion amongst the Representatives of the Four Powers; but, if that opinion shall be created in Europe by what is now done, it is not to me that it can be justly attributed to be the cause. I act upon plain intelligible grounds, which I have briefly stated to your Excellency, and I confess I have no proof or even comprehension of the necessity for proceeding with such breathless haste, and I cannot, without the existence of some reason that appears to be solid, deviate from the tenour of my instructions. It appears to me that there is no need for the measures recommended by His Excellency the Internuncio to be adopted, because whatever is granted to Mehemet Ali may be fully as well granted at the proper time, and according to the plan decided upon by the British Government. Moved by these considerations, I have directed the British Dragoman to declare to the Sublime Porte that I am not a party to this measure proposed by the Internuncio.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 11 in No. 153.

Message sent by Rechid Pasha, and brought by M. Etienne Pisani late in the day.

Le 9 Janvier, 1841.

1. QUE si la Porte consent à accorder l'hérédité à Méhémet Ali, que ce ne sera que sous des conditions, et pas dans une forme simple comme on lui propose.

2. Que des instructions seront données à Mazloum Bey de promettre l'hérédité à Méhémet Ali s'il lui en parle, ou s'il s'aperçoit que Méhémet Ali n'attend que cela pour remplir ses promesses. Les trois Représentans insistent à ce qu'un vapeur soit immédiatement expédié aux Commissaires, leur enjoignant l'ordre d'offrir l'hérédité à Méhémet Ali, parcequ'ils craignent qu'en ne rendant pas la flotte, la question se compliquera, et cette complication amènerait une guerre générale, et toute la responsabilité tomberait sur la Sublime Porte.

En conséquence, ce que Réchid Pacha désire savoir maintenant, c'est de savoir quelle conduite il doit tenir, et quelle doit être la proposition à émettre dans le conseil de ce soir, car sur la décision du conseil sera basé la réponse à donner aux Représentans.

Inclosure 12 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to Rechid Pasha.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Therapia, January 9, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to reply to your questions, by reference to what took place at the Conference, held on the 20th of December, 1840, which, no doubt, is fresh in your recollection.

I then said, that I had received orders from my Government to offer certain counsels to the Sublime Porte, in the name of the British Government, provided the Sublime Porte was satisfied with the submission of Mehemet Ali; and I stated that the counsel to be given, if the Sublime Porte were satisfied with the submission, would be counsel to grant the hereditary Government of Egypt to Mehemet Ali upon certain conditions, which conditions I would detail at the time when I should be empowered to give the counsel; your Excellency stated, that the Sublime Porte was not satisfied with the submission of Mehemet Ali; and it was agreed at the Conference that the Sublime Porte should take steps to satisfy itself of the true nature of the submission by an appeal to facts; and the Porte has sent Commissioners to effectuate that purpose.

Whenever the Sublime Porte says that it is content with the submission made by Mehemet Ali, I am prepared to offer the counsel, as I have been commanded to do by my Government, namely, to give Mehemet Ali the hereditary Government of Egypt upon conditions, which conditions I shall then have the honour to specify in detail to the Sublime Porte.

I am not at liberty to deviate from the line of my instructions as traced by my Government; and I cannot be a party to any measure that is not in exact conformity with it; and I cannot give any counsel in the name of the British Government in any other way than that which has been prescribed in my instructions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 13 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to M. Titow, Baron Stürmer, and Count Königsmarck.

My dear Sir,

Therapia, January 10, 1841.

I HASTEN to acquaint you, that in consequence of what I have received from my Government by the messenger who has just arrived here, I have instructed my Dragoman to inform his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the British Government advises the Sublime Porte to grant to Mehemet Ali the hereditary Government of Egypt.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 14 in No. 153.

Viscount Ponsonby to M. Frederick Pisani.

Sir,

Therapia, January 10, 1841.

YOU will acquaint his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that I am ordered to counsel the Sublime Porte, in the name of the British Government, to grant to Mehemet Ali the hereditary Government of Egypt.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 154.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Therapia, January 10, 1841.

COLONEL HODGES communicated to me the papers, of which I inclose copies. He may possibly have reported them to your Lordship, but I think them worth sending, as they may be considered (perhaps) a plan for obtaining a safe retreat for Ibrahim from Syria by the influence of Sir Robert Stopford, which, if obtained, may put Mehemet Ali in a position in Egypt to refuse the conditions your Lordship intends to insist upon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Mr. Larking to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

Alexandria, December 21, 1840.

BY Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Hydra," which arrived here on the 17th instant, I learnt that Ibrahim Pasha had not evacuated Syria, and that on the 7th of December the Egyptian troops were still at Damascus, although it was supposed they were on the point of leaving that city.

As this state of affairs is totally at variance with the information your Excellency had given to Mehemet Ali, and in contradiction to the declaration he had lately made to the Vizier, that Syria was already evacuated, I lost no time in calling the attention of Boghos Bey to the fact, urging him to use his influence with Mehemet Ali to induce him to forward to your Excellency an order to Ibrahim Pasha for the immediate and unconditional evacuation of Syria. I pointed out to him the certainty of a stop being put to the negotiations at Constantinople so soon as the news arrived that Ibrahim Pasha was still at Damascus, after his formal declaration to the contrary; and that if any collision should unfortunately take place between the Turkish and Egyptian forces, it might be attributed to a desire on the part of Ibrahim Pasha still to avail himself of the chances of war; and that such a supposition, although it might be erroneous, must prove most disadvantageous to the interests of Mehemet Ali.

Boghos Bey assured me that no such views were entertained by Mehemet Ali, after the solemn declaration he had made, but that I was aware that for a considerable time Mehemet Ali had had no communication with his son, and that the only intelligence he had had of the movements of his army, was contained in a letter from your Excellency, by which he was led to suppose that the evacuation was not only commenced, but completed. I replied that this assurance must have been given in the full persuasion of its correctness, but I remarked that so soon as your Excellency would hear that it had not taken place, you would be the first to demand an order for the immediate and unconditional evacuation of Syria, and this order being promptly and spontaneously given, would be interpreted into a desire on the part of Mehemet Ali to remove all difficulties on the subject. I made use of other arguments, all of which Boghos Bey requested me to put in writing, in order that he might submit the same for the consideration of Mehemet Ali.

I did this, and on the following day received a communication from Boghos Bey, to the effect that Mehemet Ali was entirely ignorant of the movements of Ibrahim Pasha, and felt convinced that the intelligence I received was not altogether correct; that should your Excellency deem it expedient, he could have no hesitation in giving the order; but that in the meantime he proposed sending an officer to Beyrout, who should be allowed to proceed to Damascus, being the bearer of a copy of his letter to the Vizier, and make known to Ibrahim Pasha his intentions regarding the evacuation of Syria, and at the same time make arrangements for the transport by sea of the sick, wounded, and women, whom it would be impossible to remove by the overland route.

I remarked that such a proceeding would be totally irregular, as the commanding officer at Beyrout would never allow the passage of his Envoy, unless authorized by the Commander-in-Chief; and that whatever communication he thought proper to make, must be made through your Excellency; and again urged him to wave all pretexts which might be interpreted into a desire to procrastinate, and at once give the order in question.

On the same evening I had another communication from Boghos Bey, in which he said that Mehemet Ali based his declaration on the statement made by your Excellency, and which statement had never been officially contradicted; but that the moment he heard from your Excellency that Ibrahim Pasha was still in Syria, he would not hesitate to furnish you with an order for the immediate and unconditional departure of the Egyptian troops from Syria.

Foreseeing that further discussion would be unprofitable, and productive of loss of time, I requested that a letter might be addressed to your Excellency, containing the intentions of Mehemet Ali, which I have now the honour to inclose.

I request that, after perusal of this letter, your Excellency will favour me with your instructions how to proceed, and I have no hesitation in saying, that as soon as they are made known, I shall have no difficulty in carrying them into effect.

You will perceive that till an official contradiction arrives, of the intelligence above alluded to, Mehemet Ali has a plea for refusing to take any further steps, the non-necessity of which had been pointed out to him by your Excellency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN W. LARKING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Boghos Joussouf to Admiral Stopford.

Monsieur L'Admiral,

Alexandrie, le 21 Décembre, 1840.

VOTRE Excellence a pu se convaincre, à la lecture de la lettre adressée par le Viceroy, mon Maître, à Son Altesse le Grand Vizir, que nous avons été indirectement informés par une lettre voie de terre, et datée des derniers jours de Ramazan, que Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha se proposait d'opérer sa retraite de Damas le 3 ou 4 de Chewal, présent mois, pour rentrer en Egypte avec toute son armée. Cette nouvelle s'est d'ailleurs trouvée confirmée par les renseignements parvenus à votre Excellence, et en conséquence desquels vous avez jugé à-propos, M. l'Admiral, de renvoyer à Alexandrie Hamid Bey, qui, conformément aux clauses de la Convention conclue avec le Commodore Napier, avait été expédié à votre Excellence avec des dépêches pour Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha. Mr. Larking m'ayant toutefois fait connaître, que d'après les informations qui lui avaient été transmises par le bateau à vapeur, sur lequel M. le Général Smith est arrivé à Alexandrie, on pouvait attribuer l'état de rébellion qui ne cesse de se manifester dans certaines parties du Liban contre l'autorité de la Sublime Porte, au séjour prolongé du Général-en-Chef Egyptien à Damas; et m'ayant exprimé l'opinion qu'il serait convenable d'expédier itérativement à Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha l'ordre d'évacuer la Syrie, je me suis empressé de soumettre cet avis au Viceroy. Son Altesse, ayant bien voulu le prendre en considération, m'a ordonné de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que les communications par terre avec la Syrie sont complètement interrompues, par suite de l'état de trouble et d'anarchie dans lesquels est pour le moment plongée cette Province, et qu'il lui paraît impossible par cette voie de tenir Son Altesse Ibrahim Pacha au courant du résultat des dernières négociations. Son Altesse rappelle en outre à votre Excellence, que le retour de Hamid Bey, qui avait été précédemment chargé de transmettre ses ordres au Général-en-Chef, ne lui a pas laissé la ressource d'une autre voie de communication. En présence de ces difficultés, le Viceroy désire que, dans le cas où les appréhensions de Mr. Larking seraient fondées, et dans le cas aussi où il resterait à votre Excellence un moyen quelconque de communiquer avec le quartier-général Egyptien, vous veuillez bien, M. l'Admiral, envoyer à Alexandrie un bateau à vapeur pour porter de nouveau

en Syrie Hamid Bey, ainsi que l'officier Anglais chargé par votre Excellence de le seconder dans sa mission auprès d'Ibrahim Pacha.

Votre Excellence se trouvant en position de prendre une idée juste de l'état actuel des choses en Syrie, je la prie de me faire l'honneur de me transmettre le plutôt possible son opinion sur ce point important, afin que nous puissions promptement y conformer nos démarches ultérieures.

Je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

No. 155.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Therapia, January 13, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of instructions sent by the Sublime Porte to Mazloum Bey—and a Hatti-Scheriff. These papers were sent late yesterday to the Dragoman, who translated them immediately, and has forwarded them to me.

If there should be anything found in the mode of proceeding that is not in concurrence with your Lordship's instructions to me, I am not responsible for it, as I was not informed of it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Hatti-Scheriff communicated by Rechid Pasha to the Representatives of the Allied Courts.

(Traduction.)

Le 12 Janvier, 1841.

J'AI pris connaissance du contenu de cette délibération du Conseil.

Par déférence pour les conseils des Hautes Cours Alliées, et attendu que mon adhésion à l'hérédité dont il s'agit met fin à la question, et contribue à la conservation de la paix générale, j'ai résolu de conférer de nouveau à Méhémet Ali Pacha le Gouvernement de l'Egypte, avec droit d'hérédité, lorsqu'il aura réellement fait sa soumission de la manière que le Conseil l'a compris.

Attendu que les instructions rédigées pour être envoyées à Mazloum Bey, et renfermant la promesse formelle de l'objet en question, sont telles que la circonstance l'exige, j'ordonne que l'on commence à agir conformément aux ordres qu'on m'a demandés.

Il y a cependant ceci à dire: l'expérience du passé a prouvé la nécessité que notre Sublime Porte soit mise en parfaite sûreté de la part de l'Egypte, soit pour le présent, soit pour l'avenir; et ce but ne saurait guères être atteint qu'en attachant à l'hérédité des conditions fortes, les obligations nécessaires. Convaincu que la même sollicitude bienveillante dont les Hautes Puissances Alliées ont déjà donné des preuves, sera employée à cet effet aussi, je me suis empressé d'écouter leurs conseils et de les mettre à exécution.

On donnera aux Quatre Représentans copie de ces instructions, et on les informera de ce qui a été dit plus haut.

On mettra du zèle à faire ce qui est nécessaire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

The Grand Vizier to Mazloun Bey.—(Communicated by Rechid Pasha to the Representatives of the Allied Courts.)

(Traduction.)

DANS la lettre que j'ai écrite et envoyée par votre Excellence à Son Altesse Méhémet Ali Pacha, il n'y a rien de clair ni de précis relativement à l'hérédité du Gouvernement de l'Égypte. Il y est dit, en termes généraux, qu'il sera réintégré dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte. Il est donc probable, il est à présumer que Son Altesse concevra des soupçons à cet égard; et c'est pour cela qu'il a été jugé nécessaire de donner sur ce point les éclaircissemens qui suivent.

Comme la lettre que Méhémet Ali Pacha m'a envoyée, et par laquelle il a offert sa soumission à Sa Majesté Impériale, commençait par faire mention de la Convention qui avait été faite entre lui et le Commodore Napier, et que la Sublime Porte n'avait pas accepté cette Convention, qu'elle regardait comme nulle et non-avenue, on a pensé que parler d'hérédité dans ma lettre ce serait, au fond, reconnaître la Convention, et voilà pourquoi on a omis d'en parler.

Cependant, Sa Majesté Impériale, dont les bontés et les faveurs se répandent sur ses serviteurs véritablement soumis, ayant à l'égard de Méhémet Ali Pacha des intentions bienveillantes qui sont en harmonie avec les sentimens de modération dont les Hautes Puissances Alliées sont animées, il est certain qu'aussitôt qu'il aura prouvé par des faits, ainsi qu'il a été déclaré dans ma lettre, la soumission qu'il a offerte, en restituant immédiatement la flotte Impériale, et en consignnant, sans délai, les pays dont on sait qu'il est question, et qui sont situés hors de l'Égypte, aux Commissaires de la Sublime Porte, Sa Hautesse daignera le rétablir dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte, avec droit d'hérédité.

On est après à établir les conditions nécessaires posées comme bases par le Traité d'Alliance et d'autres points qui se rattachent à ces conditions; et comme tout cela sera arrangé en même tems que l'investiture de l'hérédité aura lieu, je m'abstiens d'entrer dans des détails à ce sujet pour le moment. Toutefois, il importe que Son Altesse sache en peu de mots ce dont il s'agit, et qu'on lui fasse surtout savoir d'avance, que si une seule des conditions qui auront été établies n'est pas observée, l'hérédité sera abolie.

Vous ratifierez donc formellement, de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale, à Méhémet Ali, dans le cas où, conformément à ce qui a été dit plus haut, sa soumission serait un fait, l'hérédité conditionnelle comme ci-dessus. Et afin de dissiper tout-à-fait les doutes qu'il pourrait avoir à cet égard, et lui inspirer une entière confiance, vous lui ferez même voir, au besoin, ma présente dépêche officielle.

Tels sont les ordres du Sultan, conformément auxquels vous aurez soin d'agir, et c'est à cette fin que je vous écris la présente.

No. 156.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 10, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 5, of the 10th of January, inclosing copies of your correspondence with your Colleagues, with reference to a proposal made by the Internuncio on the 7th of January, on the receipt of instructions from his Court, that the Plenipotentiaries of the Four Powers should concur in a representation to the Porte with the view of inducing the Sultan to grant to Mehemet Ali hereditary tenure of the Pashalic of Egypt; and also a copy of a message which, on the receipt of my despatch No. 270, of the 17th

of December, you sent to the Porte on the 10th of January, announcing that you were instructed to advise the Porte to grant to Mehemet Ali the hereditary Government of Egypt; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the course you took with reference to the matter in question.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 157.

Sir John Barrow to J. Backhouse, Esq.

Sir,

Admiralty, February 10, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, the inclosed copy of a letter from Commodore Sir Charles Napier, dated 21st ultimo, transmitting the copy of his letter and its inclosures to Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, reporting his proceedings at Alexandria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Commodore Napier to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

Sir,

*Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, January 21, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter to Sir R. Stopford, reporting my proceedings at Alexandria up to the 11th instant, together with copies of my letters to the Senior Naval and Military Officers in Syria, Lieutenant Loring's instructions, and Boghos Bey's letter to me.

I now beg to acquaint you for their Lordships' information, that the Pasha has most religiously fulfilled all he promised, and has acted altogether in the most liberal manner in equipping, provisioning, and paying the Turkish squadron, the last of which sailed this morning for Marmarice.

Sir Baldwin Walker deserves great credit for his indefatigable exertions in getting them out; many of them were obliged to lighten, even to their ballast, and take in their guns and stores outside, which they did without anchoring, and were clear of the land before sunset.

I also inclose a copy of a letter to Boghos Bey on the subject of the sale of cotton and the Commercial Convention of August, 1838.

Relative to the cotton, the Pasha immediately fixed the price at 13 dollars the kintar, to be paid on delivery; and he promised to carry out the Convention, to abolish all monopolies throughout Egypt, and to turn his attention to the ameliorating the condition of the people.

I called his attention to the system practised by his Government of making the villages answerable for each other, paying the contribution, and even each inhabitant answerable for his neighbour. All of which he admitted to be bad, and added, he had not had time to turn his attention to it before.

I also recommended him to encourage as much as possible the establishment of newspapers, in order that all abuses might come to his ears.

He observed that he had always wished to gain the good-will of England, but without success, and he was now ready to do everything she wished.

He is under the impression that Great Britain is opposed to him either

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cutting a canal through the isthmus or establishing a railroad. On this point I could give him no positive opinion, but I feel quite certain he will do anything we wish in reason, and would become our vassal if we required it.

I inclose a copy of Boghos Bey's reply to me on the subject of the Convention. I did not think it reasonable to push him further.

The army left Damascus on the 29th of December, in three columns; there is a report that there has been an affair at Jaffa, but I trust it is not serious, and that the officer in command there will give every facility to Ibrahim's retreat.

Letters have been received from Constantinople, stating that the Porte had conceded the hereditary Pashalic to Mehemet Ali.

I beg to congratulate their Lordships and the Government on the final termination of this contest, which threatened to put Europe in a blaze, and which would have required, at least, half the water in the Mediterranean to have extinguished.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

January 23.—Ibrahim Pasha has arrived safe at Gaza, and Solyma at Suez; Mehemet Ali says with 60,000, 10,000 of which are irregular.

The steam-boat has not yet returned from Syria, so that I do not know where the women, children, and sick have been left.

We hear there is great disorder in Arabia since the Pasha withdrew his troops.

In a long conversation I had yesterday with him, he said he hoped two or three years would prove that the policy of the Allies depriving him of Syria and his other possessions had been good, but he much doubted it.

Admiral Walker sailed this morning.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Commodore Napier to Lieutenant Loring.

Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, January 10, 1841.

Sir,

PURSUANT to directions from the Commander-in-Chief, you will accompany Hamid Bey in the Egyptian steam-boat to the coast of Syria.

You will recommend him first to proceed to Acre, and you will deliver the accompanying letter to the officer commanding the Allied forces.

You will consult with him as to the best way of proceeding to Ibrahim Pasha's head-quarters, and you will demand a proper escort (if necessary) for your own protection and that of the Egyptian officer bearing the despatches to Ibrahim Pasha.

The object of your Mission to Ibrahim Pasha's head-quarters, is to see the evacuation of Syria carried into effect, and you will stay with Ibrahim Pasha as long as you consider it necessary, and then return to Alexandria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.

Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, January 14, 1841.

Sir,

WITH reference to the conversation I had the honour of holding with your Excellency this morning, relative to the notice you had issued of the intention of selling the crop of cotton of 1840, on the 20th of February, and continuing the sale the 1st of every succeeding month; I beg to observe to your Excellency, that several of the British merchants complain of the difficulty they have of becoming purchasers. They allege, that if they import cash to purchase this cotton, the price may be put so high, that they will either be obliged to take it at a loss or re-export their specie. They have, in consequence, requested me to suggest to your Excellency that the cotton in question may be put up at public sale, where it is sure to fetch its real value, and the merchants will then have a fair chance of becoming purchasers. This is the system invariably followed by the East India Company, and they have always found it to answer their purpose and satisfy the public.

I take this opportunity of asking your Excellency whether it is His Highness's intention to execute the Commercial Treaty of the 16th of August, 1838.

Your Excellency must be aware that the British Government will insist on its being put into immediate operation, and feel quite certain, if His Highness will allow it at once to take its course, he will not only gain many friends in England, but it will also engage Lord Palmerston more strongly to push the point of the hereditary Government.

As I had the honour of signing the Convention of the 27th of November, which has been approved of with the exception of the guarantee, I feel myself bound in honour to do all in my power to have it fulfilled, and I am desirous of being furnished with arguments to show the British Government that it is to their interest to, if possible, see it fully carried out; and no argument that I can make use of will weigh more than being able to write to Lord Palmerston that the Commercial Convention is in full operation.

Permit me to express to your Excellency how pleased I am on seeing the loyal manner in which His Highness has acted throughout the whole affair of the evacuation of Syria and the delivery of the fleet, and I trust it will have its due weight at Constantinople.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in No. 157.

Boghos Jussouf to Commodore Napier.

Monsieur le Commodore, Alexandrie, le 18 Janvier, 1841.

APRES vous avoir instruit, M. le Commodore, que j'avais porté à la connaissance du Viceroy mon Maître la lettre amicale que vous m'avez écrite le 14 de ce mois, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous accompagner ce matin chez Son Altesse, et dans l'entretien tête-à-tête qui a eu lieu, vous avez pu, M. le Commodore, vous convaincre de la loyauté de ses sentimens et de sa conduite. Tous les moyens disponibles ont été mis à la disposition de l'Amiral Yaver Pacha pour faciliter la sortie du port à la flotte Ottomane, qui se trouve prête à prendre la mer; la retraite des troupes Egyptiennes s'effectue en Syrie; les garnisons de Candie, d'Arabie, et des Lieux Saints n'attendent que l'arrivée des forces destinées à les remplacer pour maintenir la tranquillité de ces pays.

Quant au commerce, Son Altesse, qui veut y donner tous ses soins conformément aux désirs exprimés, elle en a été empêchée jusqu'à ce jour par les occupations de la guerre. Dans peu de jours elle se rendra dans les provinces pour mûrir des arrangements, qui, sans violentes secousses pour l'administration du pays, la mettent en état de satisfaire au Traité auquel il a acquiescé. Le Viceroy compte donc qu'on lui accordera le tems indispensable pour que cette transition puisse s'effectuer au gré de tous.

J'ai, &c.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

No. 158.

Sir John Barrow to J. Backhouse, Esq.

Sir, *Admiralty, February 28, 1841.*
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, a copy of a letter from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, stating, that he considers his Mission in the Levant to have terminated, and that he intends to proceed to Malta, leaving Rear-Admiral Sir John Ommaney in command of the squadron at Marmorice.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 28.) *["Princess Charlotte,"*
Sir, *Marmorice, January 26, 1841.*

YOU will be pleased to acquaint my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that after having seen the arrival of the Turkish fleet in this harbour from Alexandria, on their passage to the Dardanelles as soon as the season permits, having also received intelligence that Solymen Pasha, commanding the advanced guard of Ibrahim Pasha's army, had arrived at Suez, and that Ibrahim Pasha was at Gaza on his route into Egypt, I consider my Mission in the Levant to have terminated, and shall proceed to Malta, leaving Rear-Admiral Sir John Ommaney here with the command of the ships named in the margin*, until their Lordships' further orders.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

No. 159.

Brigadier-General Michell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 14, 1841.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Acre, December 31, 1840.*

AS yet there has been no direct communication with England or with Malta, nor have any means been afforded me of sending to your Lordship a satisfactory despatch with regard to the affairs of Syria.

On the departure of Sir Charles Smith the Sultan's commission was delivered to General Jochmus, and a few days afterwards he left Beyrout for

* Britannia. Powerful. Revenge. Rodney. Howe. Vanguard. Castor. Calcutta. Benbow. Cambridge. Dido. Daphne. Magicienne. Talbot. Wasp. Vesuvius. Hecate. Stromboli. Hazard.

Sidon, and proceeded thence with some light cavalry to Hasbeya in the hill country on the Upper Jordan, for the purpose of giving encouragement and direction to the mountaineers, and of obtaining accurate intelligence concerning the Egyptian Army.

The most vague and conflicting accounts were arriving daily as to the intentions of Ibrahim Pasha. He had concentrated his forces about Damascus, and the general belief was that he would immediately commence his retreat to Egypt.

General Jochmus, notwithstanding his nearer approach to Damascus, has been still kept in doubt as to what is going on there; but he seems to be fully of opinion that Ibrahim Pasha is about to move, and that he will, if possible, retreat on Gaza. His proposal, therefore, is to cause the Egyptian Army to be harassed on its flanks and rear by the mountain levies, and having assembled the regular Turkish troops at points along the coast, to operate with them as occasions may offer, in the defiles between the Jordan and the coast. In the mean time General Jochmus has been very desirous of attacking Gaza, and of capturing or destroying the provisions which are said to be in store there for the Egyptian Army, and he has repeatedly urged my co-operation for this purpose with men-of-war or steamers on the coast. There have been, however, and are still, many difficulties opposed to such an undertaking. The whole of the fleet had taken shelter at Marmorice, leaving only one steamer to watch the wreck of the "Zebra" in the Bay of Acre, besides the "Hecate," which brought me to Beyrout; yet three French vessels, a corvette, and two brigs of war, remained upon the coast and were generally at anchor near Beyrout. I took the earliest opportunity of making this known to the Admiral, Sir Robert Stopford, and he most kindly and promptly sent Captain Houston Stewart with the "Benbow," seventy-two, and the "Hazard" sloop. They arrived on the 24th of December, but the heavy surf prevented their communication with the shore, and it was not until the 27th that I could get the detachments of artillery and sappers, which came from England in the "Hecate," disembarked at Acre. In the mean time, however, Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun of the Artillery, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson of the Engineers, had made a visit to that fortress, and likewise to Tyre and Sidon.

The Admiral, while he sent me this naval aid, expressed a great unwillingness to have it employed against Gaza or in any offensive operations; first, on account of the storms prevailing at this season; secondly, because the negotiations opened by Captain Fanshawe were still pending, and he had consented to a request, made by the Pasha of Egypt, Mehemet Ali, that Egyptian steamers might go off Gaza to embark the sick, the women, and the children, of Ibrahim Pasha's Army for Alexandria.

Captain Houston Stewart had instructions from the Admiral based upon these reasons; and they of course weighed also with me as to any operations against Gaza; besides I had received information of the Egyptian force there, and at El Arish, having been largely reinforced; but knowing that General Jochmus had directed a corps to be detached from Acre to that part of the country, I determined to attempt some observations upon the coast, and on the 29th proceeded in the "Hecate" steamer from Beyrout to Acre; Captain Stewart kindly consenting to accompany me, and ordering the "Hazard" sloop to follow, but leaving his own ship the "Benbow" at anchor near Beyrout. We reached Acre in the evening, and having communicated with Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun and with the Turkish General Selim Pasha, re-embarked and pursued our course to the southward with the intention of visiting Jaffa and of reconnoitring Ascalon and the coast near Gaza; but on the morning of the 30th, a gale of wind prevented our further progress, and we were compelled to return to the anchorage off Caiffa near Mount Carmel. In the course of the day the "Hazard" sloop appeared, but Captain Stewart, apprehending for her, if she came to anchor, the fate of the "Zebra," whose wreck lay near us, ordered her back by telegraph to Beyrout.

This morning we were enabled to steam across the bay and land at Acre; but the gale is renewed at intervals, and we must for the present relinquish all idea of landing Marines or Artillery upon the coast. Captain Stewart returns this evening in the "Hecate" to Beyrout, leaving the "Vesuvius" with me. That steamer conveyed some ammunition on the 29th to Jaffa for Omar Pasha,

the Turkish General, who has made the movement towards Gaza. His corps is however too small to attack that place, and he will probably limit his operations to a removal of the provisions from Ramleh, and other points in the line of the Egyptian Army's retreat, to Jerusalem or to Jaffa. In fact he has now expressed a wish that the enemy's attention may not for the present be drawn towards him by a descent upon the coast. I have directed Colonel Rose to accompany Omar Pasha, and to keep me acquainted with his movements.

Your Lordship will doubtless learn from Sir Charles Smith a full account of Acre, of the breaches made during the bombardment and by the explosion of a magazine, of the immediate repairs which he ordered to protect the place from a coup-de-main, and of his views as to a more extensive and permanent restoration of the works. Considering the very limited means and resources, personal or material, left in Acre, the progress made in executing Sir Charles Smith's orders has been as much as could be expected, but a great deal remains to be performed, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson will now charge himself with the direction of the works, whilst Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun will superintend, in concert with the Turkish Artillery, the arming of the batteries.

I regret to inform your Lordship that the small Marine Battalion, which has been stationed at Acre since its capture, has suffered much from sickness, the Commandant Lieutenant-Colonel Walker and thirty-one men having died in the course of about six weeks. This is full one tenth of their total number. Whether the mortality has been occasioned by their previous exposure and privations during the operations on the coast, or by any cause of insalubrity in Acre, I have not yet been able to ascertain. There is reason to believe the sickness is now on the decrease. The two Assistant Surgeons lent by Sir Robert Stopford, from the fleet, and who had been attacked by the malady, are recovering. Another has been added, and I hope the arrangements I have this day ordered as to a ventilation and improvement of the quarters, and as to the establishment of a Convalescent Hospital in an airy situation outside the town, will restore the Battalion to comparative health.

Nothing has been seen of the Egyptian steamers from Alexandria, to receive the sick of Ibrahim Pasha's Army. When that permission was given by Captain Fanshawe, it was supposed the Army was already on its march to Gaza, and not likely to linger at Damascus. Probably Ibrahim Pasha delays his movement from that city, now, in consequence of the Convention commenced with his father by Captain Fanshawe. Our situation will be very embarrassing until the negotiations are terminated, since any act of hostility on our part may be construed into a breach of faith, and may disturb arrangements half concluded. I am, therefore, anxiously expecting orders from Lord Ponsonby upon the subject. In the meantime his Excellency's latest instructions to General Jochmus, and upon which he is prepared and resolved to act with energy, dictate a continuance of offensive operations.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD MICHELL,
Brigadier-General.

No. 160.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 14.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord,

Therapia, January 21, 1841.

THE Internuncio has been so good as to communicate to me the papers, of which I have the honour to inclose copies.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 160.

M. Steindl to Baron de Stürmer.

M. le Baron,

Jaffa, le 10 Janvier, 1841.

PAR mon dernier rapport en date du 2 de ce mois No. 4 j'ai eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence qu'Ibrahim Pacha ayant évacué Damas, et s'étant retiré sur Mézérih, d'où il aurait pu forcer le passage sur Gaza, toujours occupé par Mahmoud Bey et quelques autres officiers supérieurs Egyptiens, avec 3,000 hommes de Cavalerie et neuf canons, les Alliés avaient décidé de transférer le quartier général à St. Jean d'Acre.

Cette place forte n'étant aucunement menacée par l'ennemi, et se trouvant encore trop éloignée du chemin qu'Ibrahim Pacha prendrait avec ses troupes pour rentrer en Egypte, s'il ne voulait pas se résigner à se retirer par le désert, où la poursuite serait aussi pénible que dangereuse et inutile; le Général Michell, Zékria Pacha, et les autres Généraux Turcs décidèrent de réunir toutes les troupes dans le voisinage de Jaffa, et d'y établir le quartier général, ce qui fut mis à exécution sans perte de tems. Mais il paraît qu'on ne s'arrêtera pas encore dans cette dernière ville; une brigade, commandée par Ismael Pacha, partit hier soir pour Ramlé et Jérusalem, et il est plus que probable que cette dernière ville soit choisie comme centre des opérations et quartier général, ce qui est d'autant plus désirable que Jaffa est trop petite pour contenir le gros de l'armée en hiver; les soldats ne pouvant guère, sans risquer de tomber malades, être mis sous des tentes.

Le Général Jochmus, escorté d'une centaine de cavaliers Turcs, continuait en attendant à parcourir les montagnes de la Naplouse, et les districts situés entre le Jourdan et le Hauran, pour réunir autant de montagnards et paysans que possible. Il en forma plusieurs corps, dont il confia le commandement à MM. Dumont et Comte Szechenyi, ses Aides-de-camp, pour harceler Ibrahim Pacha pendant sa retraite, tandis qu'il ordonna à Omar Pacha, stationné avec 2,500 hommes à Ramlé, de se réunir avec une partie des garnisons de Jaffa et de Jérusalem, et de tenter un coup de main sur Gaza, pour y incendier les provisions considérables que Méhémet Ali y avait fait transporter pour faciliter la retraite de l'armée de son fils sur cette route.

Les Anglais désavouèrent hautement cette attaque, d'après ce qu'il paraît moins parcequ'ils désespéraient de la réussite, que parceque l'Amiral Stopford avait désigné à Méhémet Ali cette ville comme l'endroit où les Egyptiens devraient se concentrer pour être embarqués pour Alexandrie, en cas qu'une arrangement entre le Sultan et son vassal pourrait se combiner. De plus, le Général Michell, de même que les Généraux Turcs, jugèrent nécessaire de ne pas laisser agir le Général Jochmus de son chef, qui ne s'occupait plus qu'à former une armée de Montagnards et Bedouins, sans se soucier des troupes régulières. C'est pourquoi Réchid Méhmed Pacha, nommé Chef d'Etat Major du quartier général, fut expédié le 5 de ce mois de St. Jean d'Acre à Thébériade auprès du Général Jochmus avec ordre de l'engager à se rendre à Jaffa pour assister à un grand conseil de guerre, tandis que le même ordre fut envoyé par un Tatar à Omer Pacha, avec défense d'attaquer Gaza. Le Général Jochmus est arrivé ici dans la journée d'hier, laissant toujours ses Aides-de-camp à la tête des paysans armés.

Dans la soirée d'hier on reçut la nouvelle positive qu'Ibrahim Pacha avait quitté Mézérih lui-même avec le reste de son armée, et qu'il avait pris le chemin du désert. M. Dumont le poursuit avec un corps de Bédouins, nourrissant l'espoir de séparer de lui son arrière-garde, et de lui enlever quelques canons, des vivres, et des munitions. M. le Comte de Szechenyi est attendu ici sous peu de jours.

Un bateau à vapeur Anglais, arrivé hier soir de Marmorizza avec des dépêches de l'Amiral Stopford pour le Général Michell, a apporté la nouvelle que Sa Hautesse le Sultan avait agréé la soumission de Méhémet Ali, et que l'Amiral Walker était parti de Constantinople pour Alexandrie avec quelques

officiers de marine Turcs pour ramener dans le Bosphore la flotte du Sultan. On nous annonce en même tems l'arrivée prochaine des ordres de Constantinople pour suspendre les hostilités.

Agréez, &c.,
(Signé) A. STEINDL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 160.

Notizie Uffiziale giunte a Marmorice il giorno 13 Gennaro, 1841, col Vapore Inglese "Gorgon," proveniente da Giaffa, Quartier Generale dell' Armata Ottomana, fino al giorno 10 corrente.

NEI ultimi giorni di Dicembre fu organizzata la leva in massa di tutti gli abitanti della Siria al sud di Beiruth e Damasco. I montanari sotto le armi sono calcolati a 15,000 uomini compresi quelli del Hauran.

Li 27 Dicembre tutti i vereri e foraggi che Ibrahim Pascià aveva radunato in un posto avanzato a quasi due giorni in osto di Damasco, e che dovevano servire nella sua ritirata per la Palestina e Gazza, furono presi dai montanari.

Li 29 Dicembre Ibrahim evacuò Damasco. Gli disertarono 2,000 uomini di Cavalleria Curdi, con diversi corpi d'Artiglieria e d'Infanteria Irregolare.

Li 2 Gennaro Ibrahim si ritira per El Kessne, ed occupò El Mezerib, inseguito da 2,000 uomini di Cavalleria leggiera sotto gli ordini del Capitano de l'Or, Ajutante di Campo del Generale Jochmus. L'armata Egiziana soffre delle grande perdite colle continue diserzioni e dal rigore della stagione.

Li 3 e 4 Gennaro Ibrahim rimase a El Mezerib per organizzare le sue truppe e convogli. Il suo piano di ritirata di voler traversare la Palestina per Djouni e Ramla verso la costa, venne deluso dell' Emir Bechir, sopraggiunto con 7,000 uomini e 1,500 Cavaleggeri.

Tiberiade ed i defile di Djouni sono occupati dai montanari di Nauplusa, mentre l'armata regolare Ottomana, composta di ventotto Battaglioni, occupa tutta la linea da Sidone al Monte Carmello, tenendo pure una guarnigione a Gerusalemme.

Li 5 Gennaro Ibrahim cominciò la sua marcia pel deserto per la strada della caravana verso Mau e Tuz. La sua forza era apparentemente ridotta a 15,000 uomini d'Infanteria e 5,000 di Cavalleria, ed un parco d'Artiglieria di circa cento pezze. Egli aveva molti ammalati.

Il figlio del Governatore di Gerusalemme, col primo Generale Austriaco Dumont, furono spediti a sollevare i Beduini di Kebil Chalib (Monte Hebron) e quelli del deserto, collo scopo di distruggere i foraggi e le provvigioni a Mau ad otto giorni di marcia dal deserto.

Un corpo di Cavalleria di 3,000 Egiziani mandato da Mehemet Ali da El Haris è ancora stabilito in osto di Gazza. Queste truppe subitocchè sapranno che Ibrahim Pascià si ritira pel deserto e non per la Palestina, ritorneranno ancor esse ben probabilmente in Egitto.

Il giorno 9 Gennaro tutto il Quartier Generale Brittanico ed Ottomano era stabilito a Giaffa, ove si trovavano il Serrasciere Zecaria Pascia ed il Generale Jochmus.

I S.S. Tenente, Colonnello Philippovitch, Maggiore Pott, e gli altri tre uffiziali suoi compagni erano parimente a Giaffa presso il Generale in Capo.

L'armata Ottomana al 9 Gennaro occupava Acre, Gerusalemme, defile di Djouni, Giaffa, e Ramla.

Le truppe Ottomane che vennero dall' Asia Minore, traversando il Tauro o l'Eufrate, sono in movimento verso il sud, parte per la via di Baalbec, e parte lungo la costa per Tripoli e Beiruth verso Acre.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 1, 1841.

UPON the arrival of the news of the surrender of the Ottoman fleet, I wrote to Baron Stürmer to recommend proceeding to the settlement of the condition to be attached to the grant of the hereditary Government of Egypt to Mehemet Ali. His Excellency shortly after sent me a Paper he has drawn up; and the next day but one, I had the honour of a visit from him, when I proposed a plan which met with his approbation, and which was afterwards set forth in my letter to him of the 28th instant.

I also wrote to M. Titow a letter, (I inclose copy of it,) and I afterwards sent him, and to Count Kœnigsmarck, a copy of my letter to Baron de Stürmer, dated 28th January. I received another letter from M. Titow in approbation of the plan, which I also inclose with my answer: but a few hours after the receipt of this last letter, I had one from Baron de Stürmer, stating that he had objections to my plan, and that our Colleagues had the same: to this I answered, that I withdrew my plan, as it was no longer approved of; and I stated my obligation to follow literally your Lordship's instructions as contained in No. 270, the last I had received from you. I inclose my letter dated yesterday. I will do all I can, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, to obtain security for the Sultan against the evil designs that Mehemet Ali may entertain, and to preserve the people of Egypt in future from the oppression which they have hitherto endured; I am convinced that there is no way of doing both, so certain as that which your Lordship says you wish would be taken, viz.: taking the collection of the Revenue out of the hands of the Pasha. If the collection of the Revenue be left in Mehemet Ali's hands, your Lordship will see, from the inclosed Budget of Egypt, what a vast sum of money will be left at his command, and every body knows that money is the most formidable arm he can have against the Sultan, and that he will use it. If Baron Stürmer's plans be adopted, and if the revenues and so forth be left in the hands of Mehemet Ali, I am afraid there will be good cause to lament that arrangement; but if the money be not left in Mehemet Ali's power, I think the Sultan might give him almost any privileges. Your Lordship says positively, that all the Laws of the Turkish Empire are to apply to Egypt just as to any other Province in the Sultan's dominions. Now the law is, that Pashas shall not collect the revenues of their Pashalics, but if it be ordered that Mehemet Ali shall pay a tribute for his Pashalic, that law must be violated, for he must then receive the revenues. The dangers and inconveniences of his receiving the revenues are infinite. He will be the sole arbiter of rewards and punishments in Egypt, and the world knows by experience how he will treat the people. In my letter of January 31 to Baron Stürmer, I have stated briefly an argument to show that the Convention of July 15 is not binding upon the Allies, so as to oblige them to deliver up to Mehemet Ali the property and liberty of the Egyptians; and I have shown, that if the Convention be construed to bind the Allies in that way, the other enactments of it are rendered null, and there will be a manifest contradiction of one provision of the Treaty with another provision. The Austrians desire to put a sudden end (as they suppose they can do) to the question here, by yielding every thing to the Pasha. Your Lordship desires to establish future security both for the Sultan and his Egyptian subjects. My duty is to follow your orders, but could I be shaken in that duty by the exertions of the Austrians, I should be still deterred from acting with them for such a purpose, by my own knowledge that all this question is to be most rigidly scrutinized in Parliament, and that severe censure would fall upon me, if I deviated from your instructions, and thereby contributed to sacrifice the Egyptians, and leave the Sultan exposed to danger. I have an additional reason derived from information I have received, that a pamphlet is prepared for publication (if it be not already published,) and addressed to an Anti Slave Trade Association, in which the extent of the Slave Trade so long carried on by Mehemet Ali is proved, and the horrors of the Chase, as it is called, are fully described. This Chase is commanded by

one Vissier, a Frenchman, employed by Mehemet Ali, and it has for several years produced an annual average importation of 16,000 Negroes into Lower Egypt; and it is proved, that the number of human beings annually destroyed by the hunters of Negroes in their Chase, equals at least the numbers sent into Lower Egypt, making a total of more than 30,000 Negroes sacrificed or sent into slavery.

Leaving the collection and the command of the revenues of Egypt in Mehemet Ali's hands, will enable him to continue this Chase, as it will be a reward for having carried it on heretofore; I could not venture to be personally responsible for such things, and if they are done, it should be by the order of Her Majesty's Government.

The pamphlet I mention has not yet, I believe, been made public, nor sent to its destination. It is founded on the best and surest information.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Sur les Conditions à attacher à la Concession du Gouvernement Héritaire de l'Egypte que le Sultan a déclaré vouloir accorder à Méhémet Ali.

LE moment étant venu où la Sublime Porte devra faire connaître à Méhémet Ali les conditions auxquelles il plaira au Sultan de lui accorder le Pachalic héréditaire de l'Egypte, nos instructions nous prescrivent de lui offrir quelques conseils dictés par la constante sollicitude de nos Gouvernemens pour les intérêts de Sa Majesté Impériale. Ces conseils seront ainsi le complément des secours et de l'appui qu'ils ont prêtés à ce Monarque dans l'entreprise si mémorable qui, grâce à la Divine Providence, vient d'être conduite à terme d'une manière si avantageuse et si glorieuse pour lui.

Je vais faire ici l'énumération des points les plus importants à régler avec Méhémet Ali et y ajouter quelques développemens qui serviront à faire connaître à la Sublime Porte notre pensée à cet égard. Dans cette circonstance encore le Traité du 15 Juillet, dont les effets nous ont été si salutaires, nous servira de base. Les stipulations renfermées dans l'Acte Séparé de ce Traité, et qu'il s'agit d'exécuter aujourd'hui, sont celles qui suivent.

ARTICLE III.

"Le Tribut Annuel à payer au Sultan par Méhémet Ali sera proportionné au plus ou moins de territoire dont ce dernier obtiendra l'administration."

Ce territoire se borne aujourd'hui à la seule Egypte, pour laquelle il a été fixé en 1811 qu'il payerait 12,000 bourses, qui, au cours actuel de la monnaie Turque, correspondent à une somme plus que quadruple, c'est-à-dire à 50,000 bourses. Mais comme il est de notoriété publique que les revenus de cette seule province ont été portés depuis à 400,000 bourses sans que le pays en ait souffert*, et que les frais d'administration aujourd'hui, où le Pacha n'a plus besoin de flotte et d'armée, puisque son avenir est assuré, peuvent être couverts avec le quart de cette somme, le tribut à payer désormais devra nécessairement être porté à un chiffre bien autrement considérable, qu'il plaira à Sa Hautesse de fixer.

Les renseignemens renfermés dans le travail ci-joint sur les finances de l'Egypte pourraient guider à cet égard les Ministres Ottomans. Nous devons à cette occasion appeler leur attention sur les arrérages dus par Méhémet Ali pour les années 1839 et 1840, et qu'on pourra lui demander en toute justice. Un autre point encore plus important pour la Sublime Porte est, qu'elle cherche à se mettre à l'abri de la détérioration de la monnaie et de la variation du cours de change. Elle pourrait à cet effet, lorsque la somme de tribut sera fixée, en déterminer la valeur en piastres d'Egypte, d'après leur taux et poids actuel jusqu'au moment où les améliorations que la Porte se propose d'introduire dans

* Méhémet Ali, d'après son propre aveu, les a fait monter bien au-delà de cette somme pendant ces dernières années.

son système monétaire puissent recevoir leur exécution, et où par conséquent les piastres d'Egypte pourront être remplacées sans préjudice pour le trésor Impérial par des piastres Turques.

Il s'entend que si Méhémet Ali voulait porter en compte ou déduire du tribut à payer les dépenses qu'il a faites pour l'entretien de la flotte Ottomane pendant tout le tems qu'il a restée dans les ports de l'Egypte, une pareille prétention sera déclarée inadmissible d'après la teneur de l'Article IV. de l'Acte Séparé, qui a prévu ce cas.

ARTICLE V.

"Tous les Traités et toutes les lois de l'Empire Ottoman s'appliqueront à l'Egypte comme à toute autre partie de cet Empire. Mais le Sultan consent, qu'à condition du paiement régulier du tribut susmentionné, Méhémet Ali et ses descendants perçoivent, au nom du Sultan, et comme délégués de Sa Majesté Impériale, dans les Provinces dont l'administration leur sera confiée, les taxes et impôts légalement établis. Il est entendu, en outre, que moyennant la perception des taxes et impôts susdites, Méhémet Ali et ses descendants pourvoiront à toutes les dépenses de l'administration civile et militaire des dites Provinces."

Cet Article n'a pas besoin de commentaire. L'Egypte faisant partie de l'Empire Ottoman, les Traités de la Sublime Porte avec les Puissances Etrangères devront y être exécutés avec la même rigueur que dans toutes ses autres Provinces. Il en sera de même de toutes les lois de l'Empire parmi lesquelles le Hatt de Gulhané occupe aujourd'hui la première place. Ce Hatt, monument impérissable de gloire pour le règne du Sultan Abdul Medjid, et qui a lié la Turquie aux peuples les plus civilisés de la terre par des liens désormais indissolubles, ne pourra manquer d'exercer sur l'Egypte la plus salutaire influence. Il garantira le peuple de l'oppression tyrannique sous laquelle il a gémi jusqu'ici, il régularisera la perception des taxes et des impôts, il mettra un terme aux abus révoltans de la Conscription et aux expropriations injustes et arbitraires, et lui assurera graduellement tous les bienfaits d'une civilisation éclairée.

Le droit de battre monnaie ayant toujours été établi en Egypte, Méhémet Ali et ses successeurs continueront à en jouir, mais elle devra être au même coin que celle que l'on frappe à Constantinople. Quant au système monétaire, il devrait être le même pour l'Egypte comme pour les autres parties de l'Empire, mais cela ne pourra se faire que lorsque la Porte sera parvenue à améliorer sa propre monnaie, que malheureusement ne vaut pas celle de l'Egypte. Vouloir unir les deux systèmes dès à présent, ce serait détruire gratuitement ce que Méhémet Ali a fait de bon et d'utile, et ce qu'il est dans l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte de maintenir et d'établir successivement dans tous ses Etats.

Parmi les Traités avec les Puissances Etrangères mentionnés plus haut, il en est une surtout qui, s'il est maintenu dans toute sa rigueur, pourra ouvrir une ère de prospérité aux habitans d'Egypte, c'est le Traité de Commerce conclu d'abord avec l'Angleterre, et auquel la plupart des Puissances Européennes ont adhéré depuis. Ce Traité, en abolissant les monopoles, donnera un libre essor à l'industrie, fera cesser une foule d'exactions arbitraires et accablantes pour le peuple, qu'il tirera ainsi de l'état d'abjection et de misère dans lequel il gémit, et assurera le bien-être du pays, en rendant à l'agriculture des portions de terre très-considérables restées incultes jusqu'à ce moment.

ARTICLE VI.

"Les forces de terre et de mer que pourra entretenir le Pacha d'Egypte, faisant partie des forces de l'Empire Ottoman, seront toujours considérées comme entretenues pour le service de l'Etat."

Cet Article exige quelques développemens. Les forces Egyptiennes devront désormais faire partie de celle du Sultan; il s'entend qu'il appartient à Sa Majesté Impériale à en déterminer la quotité et la répartition, et de les appeler en tems de guerre sur tel point de l'Empire où leur présence pourrait être jugée nécessaire.

Les nominations des officiers de terre et de mer ne pourront être faites en Egypte que par le Sultan, comme dans toutes les autres Provinces de l'Empire. Le Sultan, cependant, par une faveur spéciale, et vu l'éloignement de l'Egypte,

pourrait autoriser le Pacha à accorder des avancements au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale jusqu'au grade de Jusbachi inclusivement dans l'armée de terre, et de Premier Lieutenant dans la flotte. Tous les officiers employés maintenant en Egypte devront, pour pouvoir y rester, obtenir du Sultan la confirmation de leurs grades. Il faudrait toutefois, ce nous semble, leur faire donner d'avance l'assurance que cette confirmation leur sera accordée sans difficulté. Par ce moyen toute pensée de réaction ou de vindicte sera écartée.

Il est entendu que Méhémet Ali ne pourrait désormais faire construire aucun bâtiment de guerre sans l'autorisation expresse de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Le pavillon Egyptien devra être remplacé à l'avenir par le pavillon de Sa Majesté Impériale tel qu'il est en usage dans toutes les autres parties de l'Empire. Il en est de même de l'uniforme Egyptien pour les troupes de terre et de mer, qui devra être remplacé par les costumes usités dans les autres parties de l'Empire Ottoman; et des modifications exigées, par le climat, telles que, par exemple, l'usage d'étoffes plus légères, se pourront seules avoir lieu après que Sa Majesté Impériale y aura donné son assentiment.

Lorsque tous ces points seront définitivement réglés par le Sultan et ses Ministres, ce qu'il me paraît important de faire sans retard, les décisions de Sa Majesté Impériale devront être annoncées à Méhémet Ali par le firman qui l'investira du Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte. Il devra y être dit clairement que cette grande et importante concession que le Sultan a daigné faire dans sa magnanimité, dépend de l'exécution fidèle des conditions mentionnées ci-dessus, et pourra être révoquée le jour où Méhémet Ali ou les membres de sa famille appelés à lui succéder se refuseront à les remplir.

Le rang de Pacha d'Egypte devra être déterminé comme étant celui d'un Vizir de l'Empire, et n'ayant en cette qualité, à l'hérédité près, aucune autre prérogative que celles dont jouissent les autres Vizirs.

Quant au mode de la succession la pensée de la Sublime Porte nous est connue. Elle voudrait se réserver le droit, lorsque la place de Pacha d'Egypte sera vacante, de nommer tel individu de la famille de Méhémet Ali qu'elle jugera y être le plus propre. En tout cas il faudra que ses intentions à cet égard soient bien clairement exprimées dans le firman d'investiture.

Il devra y être dit aussi que les Pachas d'Egypte seront tenus à l'avenir, tant à l'époque de leur nomination qu'à l'occasion de l'avènement d'un Sultan, à se rendre de leurs personnes à Constantinople pour y prêter le serment exigé et y recevoir l'investiture, et qu'ils ne pourront en aucun cas prendre le titre de Gouverneur de la province placée sous leur administration avant d'avoir rempli cette formalité.

La Sublime Porte paraît désirer que ni Méhémet Ali ni son fils Ibrahim viennent ici à l'occasion de l'investiture, leur apparition pouvant faire naître une foule d'intrigues qu'il est bon de prévenir; mais si Méhémet Ali voulait y envoyer son fils Said Bey, un pareil acte de soumission serait peut-être agréable au Sultan, et ferait un bon effet dans le public.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Du Tribut que paie l'Egypte.

MEHEMET ALI fut installé dans le Pachalic d'Egypte en 1806, à condition qu'il enverrait au Sultan un présent de quatre mille bourses, qui, d'après le cours d'alors, représentaient à-peu-près la somme de deux millions quatre cent mille florins.

Le Pachalic d'Egypte d'alors était communément appelé le Pachalic du Caire (Belled el Mase), il ne s'étendait qu'à l'Egypte Moyenne et au Delta. Le Said (Haute Egypte) était divisé en plusieurs Baililus, et administré par les Beys Mamelouks, et Alexandrie avec une partie de la province Béhéré par un Pacha indépendant de celui du Caire.

Peu après l'installation de Méhémet Ali dans le Pachalic d'Egypte, la Porte consentit à lui donner l'administration du Pachalic d'Alexandrie en récompense des services qu'il avait rendus à l'Empire en 1807, à l'occasion de l'évacuation de la Basse Egypte et de la ville d'Alexandrie par les Anglais.

Les revenus de ces deux Pachalics se composaient :

1°. Du Miri sur les terres cultivées alors par les fellahs non dépendant des Beys;

2°. Des droits d'importation et d'exportation de douanes de Suez, du Caire, de Damiette, de Rosette, et d'Alexandrie;

3°. Du droit sur les Caravans du Sennar, Darfour et Carduffan;

4°. Du Karatsch, payé par les Rayas.

Il n'y a point de données tant soit peu dignes de foi ni sur le montant de ces revenus, ni sur celui des dépenses. Méhémet Ali assure cependant que son Hasné ne réalisait jamais au-delà de 35,000 bourses par an, et que les frais pour l'administration civile et pour les troupes lui laissaient à peine autant qu'il fallait pour vivre et pour contenter ceux de Constantinople.

Pour améliorer l'état de ses finances, il avait voulu augmenter le miri, mais ayant trouvé une opposition très-décidée dans le corps des Ulemas, et des Propriétaires, qui ne cessaient de lui rappeler le Firman du Sultan Sélim, par lequel les impôts en Egypte avaient été invariablement fixés, Méhémet Ali abandonna cette idée et se résigna d'autant plus que la présence des Mamelouks lui paraissait dangereuse pour une innovation qui d'ailleurs n'était nullement populaire.

Cependant, après la défaite des Mamelouks en 1811, Méhémet Ali s'empara du Said. Il en sollicitait l'investiture, offrant une augmentation considérable du tribut.

Cette investiture lui fut accordée, à condition qu'il paierait un tribut de douze mille bourses par an, qui, d'après le cours d'alors, équivalaient à deux millions quatre cent mille florins. Débarrassé des Mamelouks, Méhémet Ali, d'accord avec les Ulemas, et faisant valoir la dépréciation des piastres, augmenta considérablement le miri et les droits des douanes pour le commerce de l'intérieur : ses revenus avaient triplés.

Il était, en outre, devenu propriétaire de la majeure partie des biens fonds abandonnés par les Mamelouks du Said, et obtint la dévolution de toutes les propriétés dont les titres d'acquisition (Hodgets) n'étaient pas rédigés d'après un règlement établi par lui peu de semaines avant sa loi d'expropriation forcée.

Méhémet Ali était déjà à même de défrayer un état des dépenses de 125,000 bourses, et les recettes présentaient un excédant considérable.

La Porte ayant eu connaissance positive de l'état favorable des finances d'Egypte, témoigna le désir d'en partager les revenus. En conséquence de cela, Satif Pacha fut chargé de demander une augmentation du tribut, mais Méhémet Ali, sous prétexte que la guerre d'Arabie lui causait de grands frais, s'y refusa nettement. Satif Pacha, instigateur de la susdite demande d'augmentation du tribut, fut ensuite, sous prétexte d'avoir voulu provoquer une révolte et déposer Méhémet Ali, publiquement décapité au Caire.

Une semblable demande fut faite en dernier lieu en 1824, mais alors c'était la guerre de la Morée qui mit Méhémet Ali dans l'impossibilité d'y faire droit.

Cependant, les revenus de Méhémet Ali augmentaient considérablement. Elles étaient en 1824 de 240,000 bourses.

Mais comme ses armemens de terre et de mer augmentaient toujours, cet état de recettes ne couvrait pas celui des dépenses.

Il avait donc imaginé une quantité de monopoles et d'appaltes, qu'il fit exploiter avec toute la sévérité fiscale.

En 1830 (1245 de la Hejré) le Grand Seigneur lui a confié l'administration de l'île de Candie.

Le tribut n'a pas été fixé, parceque l'île, tout-à-fait dévastée par la guerre civile, présentait un déficit. Mustapha Pacha prélevait sur les revenus, à titre de ses appointemens, 2,500,000 piastres par an.

Ainsi, malgré cette nouvelle acquisition, malgré la forte dépréciation des piastres, et malgré l'énorme accroissement des revenus de l'Egypte, le tribut de 12,000 bourses est resté intact.

Les Recettes en 1830 étaient de	493,791 bourses
Les Dépenses - - - -	444,872

Excédant de Recettes 48,919

En 1833 un Budget fut officiellement dressé et publié, et établit les Recettes et les Dépenses comme suit :

Recettes	- - - - -	505,135 bourses
Dépenses	- - - - -	415,513
Excédant de Recettes	-	89,622

Nous ne pouvons pas dire si ce Budget d'Egypte est réel ou hypothétique— nous nous bornons à en donner une traduction exacte ci-après.

Le fait est que la guerre de Syrie avait coûté au-delà de 300,000 bourses, et que le Hasné, d'après les aveux du Hasnadar à la fin de l'exercice 1248 (1833), bien loin de présenter un excédant de Recettes comme l'établit le Budget, se trouvait au-dessous de 165,000 bourses; Méhémet Ali ne voulait plus de Budget, il suspendit le paiement du solde des troupes et des fonctionnaires civils, et se déclara même hors d'état de payer le tribut.

D'après l'arrangement du 14 Mai, 1833, Méhémet Ali consentit à payer pour l'Egypte le même tribut qu'il payait jusqu'alors; et pour les Pachalics de la Syrie, d'Adana, et de la Crète, ce qu'avaient payé ses prédécesseurs, ce qui fut établi ainsi qu'il suit:

Egypte	- - - - -	12,000 bourses
Candie	- - - - -	2,000
Syrie et Adana	- - - - -	18,000
En tout	- - - - -	32,000

Ce qui équivaut à un million six cent mille florins, c'est-à-dire, Méhémet Ali paie huit cent mille florins de moins qu'il payait pour le seul Pachalic d'Egypte sans le Said, sans Alexandrie, sans la faculté d'augmenter le miri et établir des monopoles, qu'il a su exploiter avec autant d'adresse que de cruauté, au point que, d'après son aveu, ces différens chefs d'impôts directs et indirects y compris la la Syrie et la Candie lui ont fourni en 1838 neuf cent mille bourses.

Nous ne connaissons pas exactement les détails de cette immense revenu, ni des dépenses qui en dépendent, mais nous savons que malgré les assurances de Méhémet Ali, que cette année lui donnait un excédant de recettes de 197,000 bourses, il n'a pu ni payer l'armée, ni défrayer les différens services qui en dépendent, ni payer la flotte ni les employés de l'administration du pays. L'Armée réclame de 16 à 18 mois, l'Escadre 11 mois, les Employés 13 mois de solde; le tribut est dû pour 1839 et 1840. On peut évaluer ces différens arriérés à cinq cent mille bourses, ce qui correspond exactement à vingt cinq millions de florins de Convention.

Nous pensons que Méhémet Ali, voulant réduire les impôts à un taux compatible avec le Hatti-Chérif de Gulhané et avec le Traité de Commerce, pourra compter sur un revenu de 400,000 bourses par an; de l'autre côté, débarrassé du surplus de l'armée de terre et de mer, des ruineuses Commissions données à l'étranger, des constructions navales, et des dépenses secrètes, il pourra réduire les frais à 100,000 bourses. Ce qui lui donnera l'énorme excédant, et à-peu-près 300,000 bourses, ou 15,000,000 de florins.

Nous pensons que notre calcul est une raisonnable approximative, car le miri, qui ne pèse actuellement que sur 3,856,226 feddans, produit 225,000 bourses. Or il y a 3,157,000 feddans de terrains incultes, dont deux tiers pourraient être defriché sans la conscription et sans les travaux forcés, qui, outre la consommation réelle en hommes, causent une émigration qui enlève encore plus d'individus à l'agriculture que l'armée; cela produirait 120 à 130,000 bourses.

Ajoutons à cela le produit des douanes d'importation (de manufactures, vins, &c., d'Europe et d'Asie) et d'exportation d'objets non monopolisés, comme manufactures Egyptiennes, indigo, sucre, gommes et autres drogues, tel qu'il est actuellement fixé par les contrats de ferme avec 20,000 bourses; et les douanes pour les céréales, qui formaient l'objet des monopoles, tel que bleds, orges, riz, fèves, lentilles, dourah, et autres, dont l'exportation s'élève, année commune, de 6 à 700,000 ardebs, et qui, d'après le nouveau Traité de commerce, pourront être

exportés en payant 9 pour cent, ce qui produira	18,000 bourses
Coton	10,000
Lin et grain de lin	1,200
Droit de transit du café, ivoire, plumes d'Austruche, poudre d'or, et autres objets de commerce d'Afrique et d'Arabie	6,000

Ainsi Méhémet Ali pourra abolir tous les autres droits, taxes, et impôts, délivrer les paysans et les industriels des plus cruelles exigences et vexations fiscales, et simplifier la perception du miri et des douanes, et en supprimant les innombrables monopoles donner à son administration une marche égale, ferme, et humaine.

Le chiffre de revenus ci-dessus n'est nullement exagéré. Méhémet Ali lui-même assurait que le miri et les douanes de l'Egypte seule, cultivée ainsi qu'il se proposait de le faire aussitôt qu'il pourra mettre fin à ses démonstrations belliqueuses, pourraient lui donner dix millions de florins par an, frais d'administrations, entretien, &c. payé.

S'agissant de fixer le montant du tribut que Méhémet Ali aura désormais à payer pour l'Egypte, il est de toute convenance d'avoir égard aux données que nous venons d'énoncer.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No 161.

BUDGET DE L'EGYPTE POUR L'EXERCICE 1833.

Revenus de l'Egypte pendant 1833.

	Francs.
Miri ou Impôt Foncier	28,125,000
Droit de Capitation dit Fisdet il Rouss	8,750,000
Droit du Karatsch	80,000
Droit sur les Successions dit Beit-el-mal	150,000
Droit sur les Bestiaux destinés à être abattus	250,000
Droit sur les Okels et Bazars de la Haute Egypte	48,000
Droit sur les Danseuses, les Musiciens, et les Escamoteurs	60,000
Droit sur la Fonte de l'Argent et des Galons	56,250
Droit sur les Dattiers	600,000
Droit sur la Pêche du Lac Menzaleh	250,000
Droit sur le Sel, les Barques, et le Poisson	438,000
Droit sur les Céréales	4,500,000
Produit des Douanes et Droits d'Octroi	3,070,500
Appalte des Liquides	346,000
Appalte du Séné	32,500
Appalte de la Pêche du Lac Keroun, et Droits d'Octroi du Fayoum	72,500
Bénéfices sur le Coton, l'Indigo, l'Opium, le Sucre, le Vin, le Riz, le Miel, la Cire, le Henneb, l'Eau de Rose, la Grain de Lin, de Sésame, de Laitue, de Carthame, la Soie, le Safranum, le Nitre, la Chaux, le Plâtre, et les Pierres, le Natron, la Soude, le Sel Ammoniac	12,000,000
Bénéfices sur l'Hôtel des Monnaies	375,000
Bénéfices sur les Toiles	1,500,000
Bénéfices sur la Fabriques des Etoffes de Soie	1,200,000
Bénéfices sur les Cuir Bruts et Apprêtés	875,000
Bénéfices sur la Vente des Nattes	100,000
Total	62,778,750

Etat des Dépenses pendant 1833.

	Francs.
Envoi d'Argent à Constantinople	1,500,000
Budget de l'Armée	15,000,000
Traitemens des Officiers Chefs d'Administration	5,000,000
Solde de la Cavalerie Turque Irrégulière	812,000
Solde des Arabes Bédouins	650,000
Pour le Matériel de la Guerre	1,750,000
Montant des Rations de Fourrages, Mules, Chameaux	312,000
Ecole Militaire	200,000
Budget du Personnel de la Marine	7,500,000
Construction des Bâtimens de Guerre	1,875,000
Frais pour Chantiers de Construction des Barques à Boulae	412,500
Entretiens des Fabriques et Salaires des Ouvriers	2,750,000
Entretiens des Employés d'Administration	2,500,000
Rations de Bouche accordées aux Employés	625,000
Pensions aux Anciens Moulteghins	440,000
Pensions accordées à plusieurs Arabes	750,000
Dépenses pour les Constructions de Palais, de Fabriques, Ponts, Dignes	2,250,000
Objets tirés d'Europe pour les Fabriques	1,875,000
Dépenses pour l'Entretien des Palais du Vice-Roi	1,250,000
Dépenses de Bouche du Vice-Roi	500,000
Pour l'Administration des Achats de Cachemires, Étoffes de Soie, Bijoux	1,750,000
Dépenses pour les Caravanes des Pélérins	250,000
Total	49,951,500

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

Viscount Ponsonby to Baron de Stürmer.

My dear Baron,

Therapia, Thursday, January 28, 1841.

MY proposition is, that the Sultan shall issue a Firman in the usual form, saying, that moved by the submission of Mehemet Ali, His Imperial Majesty thinks proper to confer upon Mehemet Ali a signal mark of his Royal favour, and he therefore orders that the post of Governor of Egypt shall be hereditary in the family of Mehemet Ali, and he commands all his Viziers and officers, &c. to attend to this Imperial Ordinance, and to bear in mind that all the Laws of the Empire, and all the Treaties of the Sublime Porte, shall apply to Egypt just as much as to any other Province of the Sultan's Dominions.

The object I have in view is to unite in one solemn act the proofs of the concession made, (which it is to be hoped will satisfy the pride of France,) and the manifestation of the Sovereign Authority of the Sultan by its exercise.

I propose that this act of authority should be followed in due time by the specification of the nature and extent of the administrative powers which the Sultan shall think proper to confide to the Governor of Egypt. This last measure will require great consideration, for it will be an act of great importance, and if not done with prudence and firmness, must produce great embarrassment, if not put the future tranquillity of this Empire in danger. It appears to me that the Firman above mentioned will be a formal termination of the Question by the establishment of the principle upon which the Empire is to be governed. It asserts and declares the rights of the parties. The exercise or the enjoyment of those rights is a separate question, and can be more correctly treated when put in its proper place, as derivative from and dependent upon the great principles already recognized.

I presume we shall have time enough to examine carefully and to settle this second affair, for it does not appear that there can be any immediate interruption of peace, and I do not imagine the French can show decently a violent impatience, and force us to rush headlong to a rash, and hasty, and imperfect settlement of details, when they have the formal official knowledge that the principle they have been contending for has been admitted.

If this proposal should continue to meet with your approbation, and should also be approved of by our Colleagues, it might be made the subject of a suggestion to the Porte, and if concurred in by the Sultan, and carried into execution,

it would then be proper to forward the Firman to Alexandria to be delivered to Mehemet Ali, and a notification of the fact, together with a copy of the Firman, might be officially communicated by the Ottoman Ambassador in London to the Conference assembled in that Capital.

I have endeavoured to be as brief as possible, and I have abstained from all the minor questions, upon which, however, I have much to say when the time comes for their discussion.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) PŌNSONBY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 161.

Viscount Ponsonby to M. Titow.

My dear Sir,

Therapia, January 22, 1841.

I BELIEVE I shall perform what you desired to have done by giving you extracts from Lord Palmerston's last instruction to me, dated December 17, 1840, showing the conditions which are to be imposed upon Mehemet Ali. I did not understand you to desire the earlier parts of it, which touch the past, and direct me to consider submission to have been made, and which assume that all is going on swimmingly.

"It would indeed be necessary, that in reinstating Mehemet Ali in the Pashalic of Egypt, care should be taken to make such arrangements as would protect the people of Egypt from a continuance of the tyrannical oppression by which they have of late years been crushed, and should secure the Sultan against a renewal of those hostilities which have compelled him to have recourse to the aid of his Allies. But the means of effecting all these purposes may be found in the stipulations of the Treaty of the 15th of July, without removing Mehemet Ali from his Pashalic. The Treaty says that all the laws of the Turkish Empire, and all the Treaties of the Porte, shall apply to Egypt, just as much as to any other province of the Sultan's dominions; and that the land and sea forces which may be maintained by the Pasha of Egypt, shall be part of the forces of the Empire, and be kept up for the service of the State.

"Under these stipulations, the Sultan will of course be able, by an exercise of his legislative authority, to establish unity of flag and military and naval uniform throughout all his provinces; to limit the number of troops which each province shall, according to its population, maintain; to regulate the mode of enforcing the conscription, so as to protect the people from undue burthens and oppressive levies; to fix the number and the class of ships of war which shall belong to the several naval ports of his dominions; to fix the manner in which commissions in the Army and Navy shall be granted in his name, and by his authority; to determine that a single monetary system shall prevail throughout his dominions, and that there shall be but one Mint. The Treaty specifies that none but the legal imposts shall be levied in Egypt, which will secure the people from undue exactions; and the execution of the Convention of 1838, by which all monopolies are to be abolished, will at once free the people of Egypt from those oppressive restrictions, which have hitherto kept the great mass of the population in the most abject poverty, and which have gradually thrown out of cultivation extensive tracts of land that were formerly tilled and productive.

"By such means it seems to Her Majesty's Government, that future security might be afforded both to the Sultan and to his Egyptian subjects against the disposition of Mehemet Ali to rebel against his Sovereign, and to oppress the people of the province he would have to govern."

I know my Government is very desirous to have this question settled as rapidly as possible, and I hope it may be agreeable to yourself and our Colleagues to proceed with it. I do not see that we have much to do, our line being clearly marked out for us. You agreed with me that the Sultan, having accepted the restoration of the Fleet as the submission of Mehemet Ali, and having declared his intention to give him the Government (Hereditary) of Egypt, it is now proper that His Highness should declare his Sovereign pleasure, and fix the conditions upon which he grants the Government, and that this should be done by a Royal Firman, which should be sent to Mehemet Ali.

I presume it would be necessary to invite the Porte, as soon as the Firman shall have been completed and sent to Alexandria, to order copy of it to be officially communicated by the Ottoman Ambassador to the Conference in London.

The conditions recited above are imperative upon me, and I cannot advise the Porte except in entire conformity with them only, Lord Palmerston having mentioned the expediency of the Sultan reserving the right to designate the individual of the family of Mehemet Ali who shall succeed to the Pashalic, and that it should not be left to the governing Pasha to select his successor; that might be added.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 161.

M. Titow to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 17 Janvier, 1841.

J'AI parcouru avec beaucoup d'attention la lettre de votre Excellence au Baron de Stürmer, et je ne saurais assez vous remercier d'avoir bien voulu me la communiquer. Nous nous sommes réunis bientôt après midi chez M. l'Internonce avec le Comte Koenigsmarck, et tous trois nous avons été d'accord à reconnaître la prudence et l'opportunité de la proposition émise de votre part. Il paraît utile en effet que le Sultan commence par établir ainsi l'exercice général de son autorité Souveraine sur l'Egypte, avant d'aborder les détails, et au moment même où il fera la concession de l'hérédité. La prérogative Souveraine serait ainsi confirmée dans toute son étendue, et la porte reste ouverte pour toutes les mesures d'exécution que Sa Hautesse aurait à ordonner par la suite. Le Baron de Stürmer a donc adhéré, comme le Comte Koenigsmarck et moi, au parti d'offrir aujourd'hui des conseils dans ce sens au Ministre Ottoman, et il s'est rendu en personne chez Réchid Pacha pour l'y préparer.

Je suis heureux, pour ma part, d'avoir pu venir ainsi à la rencontre de vos intentions. Qu'il me soit permis seulement d'émettre ici une remarque faite aussi par l'Internonce au sujet de l'hérédité. Dans la lettre par laquelle vous avez eu la bonté de me communiquer l'extrait des instructions de Lord Palmerston, votre Excellence opinait qu'il serait utile d'annoncer dès à présent que Sa Hautesse se réserve de désigner l'individu de la famille appelé chaque fois à succéder au Pashalic. Pensez-vous, my Lord, que dans nos conseils il serait bon de suggérer dès à présent l'insertion de cette clause restrictive, ou qu'il faut s'en tenir à la rédaction générale et étendue que vous avez proposée. Votre avis à cet égard ne manquera pas d'avoir un grand poids pour nous tous.

Votre, &c.,
(Signé) TITOW.

Inclosure 5 in No. 161.

Viscount Ponsonby to M. Titow.

My dear Sir,

Therapia, January 29, 1841.

I HAVE this moment received your letter of the 29th instant; it gives me infinite pleasure to learn that yourself and my Colleagues approve of the proposed plan.

I reply at once to your question, and I say that I think it will be more prudent to keep everything like specific arrangement for the settlement that will flow from the assertion and establishment of the Sultan's sovereign authority and right. You will observe that I used the expression, hereditary in the family of Mehemet Ali, which cannot tie up the Sultan's right to specify the mode in which the succession shall take place; and if it should be argued hereafter that the succession should be in the direct line, (and, as it is called, by representation,) the answer would be easy, that nothing of the sort is known to

Turkish law, nor is usual in the East, succession being commonly regulated by very different principles.

I do not see any inconvenience in leaving this matter untouched, but I do fear that any thing that might give Mehemet Ali ground for discussion and dispute at this moment, might be inconvenient, and would be seized upon by him. He cannot deny the Sultan's Sovereignty, which he has already admitted; it will be impossible for him to refuse the Hereditary Right, as it is expressed, without denying, at the same time, the Sovereignty of the Sultan already acknowledged.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 161.

Viscount Ponsonby to Baron de Stürmer.

My dear Baron,

Therapia, January 31, 1841.

THE plan I suggested to you, and which is stated in my letter of the 29th instant, and was approved of by you and our Colleagues, was intended by me to facilitate and accelerate the settlement of the question with Mehemet Ali: I still think it would do so, but as you and our Colleagues have altered your opinion, I withdraw it.

You appear to have misapprehended the operation of the Firman I mentioned, and to have imagined it would occasion delay. I did not so understand it, and I do not perceive how it would have prevented any arrangement of the conditions being made in half an hour, if determined upon by the Sultan. I have seen no cause for delay except in the difficulties inherent in the construction of the conditions. As there is no longer question of my plan, I should only give you needless trouble by replying to the reasonings contained in your letter; and to spare your time, I will proceed direct to the subject that ought to occupy our attention,—namely, the counsel to be given to the Sultan. You asked me, "Have we a right to act according to our own fancies, when the route we have to pursue is clearly traced for us?" My reply is, we certainly have not: and, in conformity with your just notions, I will continue to act, without the smallest deviation, upon the instructions No. 270, which have already been made known to you, but which, to avoid error, I will transcribe *literatim* from the document.

"It would indeed be necessary, that in reinstating Mehemet Ali in the Pashalic of Egypt, care should be taken to make such arrangements as would protect the people of Egypt from a continuance of the tyrannical oppression by which they have of late years been crushed, and should secure the Sultan against a renewal of those hostilities which have compelled him to have recourse to the aid of his Allies. But the means of effecting all these purposes may be found in the stipulations of the Treaty of the 15th of July, without removing Mehemet Ali from his Pashalic. The Treaty says, that all the laws of the Turkish Empire, and all the Treaties of the Porte, shall apply to Egypt, just as much as to any other province of the Sultan's dominions; and the land and sea forces which may be maintained by the Pasha of Egypt, shall be part of the forces of the Empire, and be kept up for the service of the Sultan.

"Under these stipulations, the Sultan will of course be able, by an exercise of his legislative authority, to establish unity of flag, and of military and naval uniform throughout all his provinces; to limit the number of troops which each province shall, according to its population, maintain; to regulate the mode of enforcing the conscription, so as to protect the people from undue burthens and oppressive levies; to fix the number and class of ships of war which shall belong to the several naval ports of his dominions; to fix the manner in which commissions in the Army and Navy shall be granted in his name, and by his authority; to determine that a single monetary system shall prevail throughout all his dominions, and that there shall be but one Mint. The Treaty specifies, that none but the legal imposts should be levied in Egypt, which will secure the people from undue exactions; and the execution of the

Convention of 1838, by which all monopolies are to be abolished, will at once free the industry of the people of Egypt from those oppressive restrictions which have hitherto kept the great mass of the population in the most abject poverty, and which have gradually thrown out of cultivation extensive tracts of land that were formerly tilled and productive.

"By such means it seems to Her Majesty's Government, that future security might be afforded, both to the Sultan and to his Egyptian subjects, against the disposition of Mehemet Ali to rebel against his Sovereign, and to oppress the people of the province he would have to govern."

The above constitute the sole rule I can follow, and they are the only words I am at liberty to use in the counsel I shall consent to give to the Sublime Porte.

Before I conclude my letter, I wish to observe, that you appear to me to have misunderstood me on the subject of the Convention of 15th July. What I say is, that Mehemet Ali having rejected the offers made to him, the Allies are not bound, to Mehemet Ali, to carry those offers into effect, but that the Allies are free to act as they think proper, and to vary if they please the conditions to be imposed upon Mehemet Ali; and I will avow my opinion to be, that if the precise stipulations in the Convention with regard to the terms there offered to Mehemet Ali, are to be rigidly adhered to, it will be done in contradiction to the other conditions insisted upon by our Governments.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 162.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 4, 1841.

I THIS day attended a Conference assembled by desire of his Excellency the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, at his house in Constantinople.

The Minister opened the business of the day by informing the Representatives of the Four Powers, that he had drawn up a project of conditions to be annexed to the grant to Mehemet Ali of the hereditary Government of Egypt, which project was prepared with the view of meeting the wishes of the Sultan's Allies, such as the Sublime Porte presumed them to be.

The project was then read, and Rechid Pasha asked the Representatives if it met with their approbation, and I was called upon to answer first.

I said, "I had no objection to offer to any of the propositions, excepting to that which established a tribute, upon which I should have to make some observations after my Colleagues had given their answer to the question of his Excellency the Minister. My Colleagues then gave *seriatim* their approbation to all the propositions contained in the project. I expressed my regret to be obliged to differ from my Colleagues, and proceeded to state, that the question being one of extreme gravity, I had thought it expedient to commit to writing what I intended to say upon it; and, that as it might be said to be almost based upon the assumption, that the counsel the Representatives should give to the Sublime Porte, must be in exact and rigid conformity with the Convention of 15th July, I had applied myself first to that topic, and had made some brief remarks to show that the Convention is not the absolute rule by which the counsels given by the Representatives to the Porte, are to be governed; and I then proceeded to read a French translation of the inclosed paper.

When I had terminated, his Excellency the Internuncio entered into an examination of parts of what I had said, and concluded by declaring, that the Convention is the absolute rule by which the counsels given by the Representatives to the Porte must be rigidly governed. Count Koenigsmarck and M. Titow followed, and made the same declaration.

I abstain from reporting to your Lordship the arguments made use of by

my Colleagues, lest I should not do justice to them, and because they will appear in the Protocol, with the authority of their Excellencies. There was a very long discussion, which I have not time to report, and which will also be found, no doubt, in the Protocol: and I proceed to state, that the Ottoman Minister, after that discussion, asked, what would the Three Representatives (who are united in opinion) advise the Sublime Porte to do for ensuring the carrying into effect the measure they approved of, viz., the tribute? To this it was answered, that the Sublime Porte was the sole judge of that matter. His Excellency then asked me how the Sublime Porte should treat Mehemet Ali, if the measure of tribute should not be adopted? I replied, the Porte should treat Mehemet Ali as it would treat every other Pasha.

I must beg your Lordship's indulgence for my not entering into any details; I have had too much fatigue from exposure to the bad weather and a long debate, to be equal to the proper execution of such a work, and I confine myself therefore to brief notices of the main facts, by which your Lordship will lose nothing; because the Protocol will give, more or less well, the particulars. I took but little share in the discussion on what I considered matters of minor importance, as compared with the main question of tribute, being really unable to see how any regulations can palliate the evils of it, and hearing nothing in discourse that showed others to be more clear-sighted than myself.

Rechid and Ahmed Fethi and Riza Pashas were present. They are to report to the Council, and then to the Sultan; and it is promised that the matter shall be speedily decided.

When the discussion of the tribute was over, Rechid said that Mehemet was in possession of the Governments of Dongola, Kordofan, and Sennaar. He asked if it was intended to advise the Sultan to give Mehemet Ali the hereditary Government of them. The Representatives replied unanimously, that those provinces did not belong to Egypt, and that the Representatives did not advise the hereditary grant: and being asked, what should be done about those provinces, they recommended, in conformity with the notion of Rechid Pasha, that the Sultan should tell Mehemet Ali, that His Majesty would leave them under his Government for the present.

I took this opportunity to speak of the Slave Trade so long carried on by Mehemet Ali from those provinces; and I stated the atrocities of the chase (as it is called), and the destruction of human life that attends the capture of the 16,000 Negroes annually caught and sent into Lower Egypt by the officers of Mehemet Ali. Rechid Pasha declared his readiness to take the best means in his power to put an end to this great evil: but your Lordship must be aware, that the Porte cannot do anything to destroy it, unless the power of Mehemet Ali be brought under that of the Sultan.

I request your Lordship will bear in mind, that I did not examine or discuss the conditions the Porte proposed to establish for the Government of Egypt, but let them pass as being dependent, in many things, upon the question of tribute, and therefore destined to be carried into effect, or altered as the measure of tribute should be determined.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

P.S.—It is out of my power to obtain an official copy of the conditions proposed by the Ottoman Minister to be imposed on Mehemet Ali, and I have therefore sent a report from memory.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Observations addressed to the Conference by Lord Ponsonby.

THE deposition of Mehemet Ali, and the appeal to the Porte to reinstate him, afford proof that the Convention does not bind the Allies in their conduct to Mehemet Ali, who, by his refusal of that Convention, destroyed all his right to its benefits. Whatever may be granted to Mehemet Ali since, is the result of the freewill of the Allies. The Convention, therefore, is not obligatory upon the Allies; in any case they are free to act as they please. My instructions say, that the means of protecting the people of Egypt, and of guarding the Sultan

against the renewal of hostilities, &c., may be found in the stipulations of the 15th of July, without removing Mehemet Ali from his Pashalic. This clearly proves, that Lord Palmerston looks to the Treaty, as affording a source from whence may be drawn the means for effecting the purpose stated by him; but it is not a declaration by Lord Palmerston, that the Treaty is to be the absolute rule. If it is to be so, why is it deviated from in any particular?

If the Treaty be not the absolute rule, why are we to counsel the Sublime Porte to take a measure that was adopted in that Treaty, at a time when affairs were in a state totally different from their actual state? The Treaty was a compromise with Mehemet Ali, and all its stipulations were conditional, and with a view to engage him to accept it. Mehemet Ali decided to refuse the Treaty, and to try the chance of arms. He has been vanquished, and he has made unconditional submission to his Sovereign. How then can the Treaty be obligatory upon the Allies, (of whom the Sultan is one,) to take the measures framed for another position of affairs which has ceased to exist?

If then the Treaty be not obligatory upon the Allies, the counsel to be given by us to the Ottoman Porte is to be based upon the instructions we have received from our Courts; and we are not to advise the Porte to adopt measures that are impossible to be reconciled one with another, and contradictory, so as that one measure, if adopted, shall defeat almost every other measure which we are ordered to recommend.

Lord Palmerston's instructions to me, No. 270, have been communicated *in extenso* to my Colleagues, and to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. They prescribe for me the conduct I am to pursue. They say, "Care must be taken to make such arrangements as will protect the people of Egypt from the tyrannical oppression by which they have of late years been crushed, and as shall secure the Sultan against a renewal of those hostilities which have compelled him to have recourse to the aid of his Allies." Lord Palmerston says, these arrangements may be found in the Treaty of the 15th of July. The Treaty says, that all the laws of the Turkish Empire, and all the Treaties of the Porte, shall apply to Egypt just as much as to any other province of the Sultan's dominions.

Lord Palmerston proceeds to particularize the application of the principle laid down, to the future character of the military and naval forces of the Empire, to the exercise of the Sultan's legislative authority in the settlement of other matters of the most important nature, and concludes with these words:—"The Treaty specifies, that none but the legal imposts shall be levied in Egypt, which will secure the people from undue exactions; and the execution of the Convention of 1838, by which all monopolies are to be abolished, will at once free the industry of the people of Egypt from those oppressive restrictions which have hitherto kept the great mass of the population in the most abject poverty, and which have gradually thrown out of cultivation extensive tracts of land that were formerly tilled and productive. By such means, it seems to Her Majesty's Government that future security might be afforded, both to the Sultan and to his Egyptian subjects, against the disposition of Mehemet Ali to rebel against his Sovereign, and to oppress the people of the province he would have to govern." The fundamental principle of Lord Palmerston's instructions is, the protection of the Sublime Porte from rebellion, and the people of Egypt from oppression, and particularly from exactions.

The measures which (as I am informed) the Ottoman Minister proposes to take for the future Government of Egypt, appear to me fully in conformity with the principle of Lord Palmerston's instructions, with the exception of one, namely, the measure of a tribute, and the consequent abandonment to Mehemet Ali of the collection of the revenues of Egypt, to be disposed of by him for the maintenance of the civil, military, and naval establishments of that province.

This measure is in contradiction to the declaration, that all the laws of the Empire shall be in force in Egypt; for the law of the Empire is, that the Pashas shall not collect the revenues, &c.; but if it be the pleasure of the Sultan, he can revoke that law, and thereby put an end to that contradiction,—an act which I am not authorised to advise the Porte to do, and which, if done, would, as I think, open the way for an unceasing succession of mischiefs to the Sultan, and the destruction of the great ameliorations lately made, and by which the future welfare of the Ottoman people is to be secured. Why not repeal the Hatti-Scheriff of Gulhane?

The principle of Lord Palmerston's instruction is, protection for the Sultan, and for the people of Egypt against Mehemet Ali. The success of the Sultan's arms has wrested from Mehemet Ali the actual power of the sword; a power which Mehemet Ali created for himself, by the abuse of the revenues of Egypt which were placed in his hands. It is proposed to replace them in his hands. The revenues of Egypt were raised to their vast amount by the exactions of Mehemet Ali. He is to be left the sole controller of the perception of the taxes, and consequently, sole and absolute master of men, to whom taxation and exactions leave nothing beyond the mite that is absolutely necessary for their bare existence. He can inflict any punishment he pleases, to enforce payment even when payment is impossible, and he is the master of the persons as well as of the property of the Egyptians. Can this be in conformity with Lord Palmerston's instructions to protect the property of the people of Egypt? It is proposed to limit the number of troops to be kept up in Egypt, and that must lead to a diminution of the charges on the Pasha. I find in a report made by a scientific man, that in the year 1833 the revenues of Egypt amounted to 62,778,750 francs; the expenses to 49,951,500 francs.

The residue such a state of finance would leave in the hands of the Pasha, over and above all his expenses, would make him richer in money disposable for his personal objects, than almost any Sovereign in Europe, without calculating the enormous difference of the value of money in Egypt, compared with its value in Europe; but when the military and naval expenses of the Pasha are reduced, the surplus of the revenue he will enjoy will be largely augmented. Money is power, it more particularly is power in these countries; it has been the instrument by which Mehemet Ali raised himself to that height from whence it has cost so much labour and blood to remove him. Money is the only arm by which he can now be mischievous to the Sultan, and it is proposed to give it him in abundance; to supply Mehemet Ali with the means of being dangerous to the Sultan by extorting money from the wretched people of Egypt, who it is intended also to protect from exactions!

If the amount of tribute be increased, Mehemet Ali will be only stimulated to exact more from the people if that can be obtained by force or fraud, and an additional curse will fall upon Egypt. Will these things be guarded against by a vast diminution of the taxes in Egypt? How is it to be done, except with the concurrence of Mehemet Ali, and his true and loyal assistance in the execution of the measure? Does any body expect it?

The absolute control over the revenue of Egypt, gives to Mehemet Ali the absolute disposal of rewards and punishments. It makes him the master of the persons and fortunes of all. How are the laws of the Empire to apply to Egypt, unless by and with his permission and assistance. How is Gulhane to be enforced against the man who pays every body, from the judge to the lowest police officer, and who can at pleasure ruin the pecuniary resources of any man or allow him to subsist or prosper?

The Treaties between the Sublime Porte and other Powers may be enforced by the fear Mehemet Ali may have of Foreign Nations, but the Sublime Porte will be powerless by the action of its own means to compel their observance. How are monopolies to be put down in Egypt? Are they to be perpetuated by a fraud?

These are only a portion of the consequences that will arise from leaving in the hands of Mehemet Ali that power which must necessarily belong to him if he is to collect the revenues of Egypt, and distribute them, as must be the case if the measure be adopted by the Sublime Porte of taking from Mehemet Ali a tribute in the way proposed.

It appears to me to be a measure in opposition to the declared end and object of my Government, as they are stated in Lord Palmerston's instruction No. 270. It appears to me, that it is not directed by the Convention of the 15th July; that it is not now necessary or expedient for the settlement of the affairs of this country; that it will confirm and perpetuate the misery of the people of Egypt, (being a permanent settlement;) that it will disgust the moral sense of Europe; and that it is in direct contradiction to the honourable desires of the British Government as they are expressed in Lord Palmerston's instruction. I, therefore, have made this declaration of my opinions, and I decline to give my approbation to the measure, and to offer my advice to the Sublime Porte that such a measure should be adopted.

I have reason to believe my Colleagues entertain an opinion different from mine. They have had before them for their consideration the instructions from Lord Palmerston so often referred to. They are possibly better able to interpret them than I may be, but I understand them in the sense I have described; and it is for others, not for me, to decide, and to take such part as they may esteem the best. Those whom I have now addressed can judge, as well as I can do, what is the opinion of the British Government. My opinion is of little importance excepting to myself, but I must stand before my country and justify my acts.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Conditions on which the Sublime Porte has proposed to grant the hereditary Tenure to Mehemet Ali Pasha.

HÉRÉDITÉ de l'Égypte accordée à condition que tous les Traités et toutes les lois de l'Empire s'appliqueront à l'Égypte comme à toute autre partie de l'Empire Ottoman.

Le Sultan reste maître de choisir parmi les descendants mâles de Méhémet Ali qui bon lui semblera. L'héritier choisi au Gouvernement de l'Égypte n'aura le titre de Vizir qu'après qu'il aura reçu l'investiture du Sultan, et c'est après cette investiture qu'il sera nommé Vizir et qu'il sera traité à l'instar de tous les autres Vizirs de l'Empire. Vu l'âge avancé de Méhémet Ali, il est dispensé de se rendre à la Capitale; ses successeurs sont obligés.

La Porte ayant le projet d'améliorer son coin, la monnaie que Méhémet Ali pourrait frapper en Égypte devait avoir le même alliage et le même cours que celle du Sultan.

Toute nomination aux emplois civils et militaires doit venir du Sultan, et toute promotion émaner de Sa Hautesse; dès lors qu'il est défendu à Méhémet Ali de nommer à aucun emploi, et de pourvoir à aucun office sans l'autorisation et le consentement de Sa Hautesse, pourtant, afin de lui laisser un pouvoir d'organisation militaire, il lui est accordé de nommer jusqu'au grade de Capitaine inclusivement.

Le tribut à payer annuellement sera fixé séparément.

Les marques distinctives (Nischan) de tout grade tant civil que militaire doivent être décrétées par Sa Hautesse.

Les uniformes tant civils que militaires doivent être pareils à ceux que les officiers civils et militaires du Sultan portent, le tout adapté au climat, bien entendu que la coupe et la forme doivent être absolument les mêmes.

Quant à la garnison pour le maintien du bon ordre en Égypte, la Porte propose vingt à vingt-cinq mille hommes de troupes.

La conscription, qui donne dans les autres Provinces un sur cent hommes, ne pourra donner en Égypte qu'un sur deux cents hommes.

De tout tems le Gouvernement de l'Égypte a été chargé de pourvoir aux besoins des Villes Saintes; Méhémet Ali devra donc en sujet fidèle se conformer à tout ce que lui impose la place de Gouverneur de l'Égypte.

No. 163.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 33.).

My Lord,

Therapia, February 5, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of two letters from Mehemet Ali Pasha to His Highness the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

Mehemet Ali to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

Le 23 Janvier, 1841.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que Votre Altesse m'a écrite pour me faire savoir que lorsque la Sublime Porte aura appris d'une manière positive, qu'ainsi que j'en ai pris l'engagement, la Flotte Impériale a été envoyée sans aucun délai, avec tous les officiers, quelques individus connus exceptés, avec tous les équipages, toutes les munitions, et tous les agrés, après avoir été consignée au très-distingué Yaver Pacha, chargé de la recevoir, et que certains endroits connus ont été évacués et remis aux Agens de la Sublime Porte, Sa Majesté Impériale daignera me réintégrer dans le Gouvernement d'Égypte, ce qui est chose résolue, et que son Excellence Mazloum Bey, un des principaux Employés du Gouvernement Ottoman, a été chargé de me faire des communications essentielles sur ces points.

Je n'ai pas plutôt reçu la lettre de Votre Altesse, que, conformément à la volonté positive de Sa Hautesse, j'ai sans retard consigné la Flotte Impériale. J'ai aussi écrit à chacune des Autorités Égyptiennes de remettre aux Agens de la Sublime Porte les Lieux Saints, ainsi que leurs forts, avec toutes les munitions de guerre et de bouche qui s'y trouvaient, et de venir ici. Je leur ai expédié mes lettres par l'Honorable Haji Ahmed Aga, Capidji Bashi (Chambellan) de la Cour Impériale, qui était venu ici en Mission. J'ai mis de l'empressement à faire sortir la Flotte Impériale du Port d'Alexandrie en employant à cet effet des bateaux à vapeur, et dans l'espace de quelques jours on a pu, par la grâce de Dieu, faire partir les bâtimens l'une après l'autre.

J'ai appris aussi, par une lettre arrivée aujourd'hui de la part de mon fils Ibrahim Pacha, la nouvelle positive qu'il a abandonné toute la Syrie, et qu'il est venu jusqu'à Gaza. Votre Altesse verra donc qu'il n'est plus resté, grâce à Dieu, la moindre difficulté.

Par une lettre officielle arrivée plus tard à Mazloum Bey, j'apprends qu'au moment que la soumission que j'ai faite sera devenue un fait accompli, par la prompte restitution de la Flotte Impériale, et la remise, sans aucune délai, des lieux dont il s'agit aux Agens de la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Égypte me sera accordé. Or, voilà, que Dieu en soit loué, j'ai exécuté à la lettre toutes les conditions de la manière ci-dessus énoncée. Je prie donc Votre Altesse de représenter à Sa Majesté Impériale que je fais des vœux pour qu'il puisse régner longtemps, et que j'attends l'accomplissement de sa promesse Souveraine. Votre Altesse aura rendu ainsi un nouveau service signalé à un ancien et fidèle ami.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

Mehemet Ali to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

Le 23 Janvier, 1841.

SA Majesté Impériale ayant ordonné que Fevzi Ahmed Pacha, que son ex-Chiahaya Shériff Agi, et Osman Bey, fils de Shériff Aga et ex-Riala Bey (Contre-Amiral), ne soient pas envoyés à Constantinople, ils sont restés ici, occupés sans cesse à faire des vœux pour la conservation des jours et la prospérité de Sa Hautesse. Mais ils implorent la grâce qu'il leur soit permis de faire venir aussi leurs familles ici. Lorsque Votre Altesse aura su la nature de la faveur qu'ils demandent, et attendu que là et ici c'est tout un, étant les États du même Empire, et que s'ils sont séparés de leurs femmes et de leurs enfans, ils en auront le cœur navré, j'espère qu'elle voudra bien, par compassion pour eux, employer ses bons offices afin de leur procurer la permission de Sa Hautesse de faire venir leurs familles ici.

No. 164.

*Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.**Foreign Office, March 4, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to acquaint Chekib Effendi, &c., that Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, in a despatch dated the 26th of January, has communicated to Her Majesty's Government intelligence that the Turkish fleet arrived at Marmorice from Alexandria on the 24th and 25th of January, on its way to the Dardanelles; and that Solyman Pasha, commanding the advanced guard of Ibrahim Pasha's army, had arrived at Suez; which place he probably reached on the 22nd of January.

In a further despatch, dated the 19th of February, Sir Robert Stopford states that Ibrahim Pasha had himself arrived at Gaza on the 1st of February, on his way to Egypt.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 165.

PROTOCOLE de la Conférence tenue au Foreign Office le 5 Mars, 1841.

Présens :

Les Plénipotentiaires
d'Autriche;
de la Grande Bretagne;
de Prusse;
de Russie; et
de la Porte Ottomane.

LES Plénipotentiaires des Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, de Russie, et de la Sublime Porte Ottomane, se sont réunis pour prendre en considération les rapports reçus de Constantinople jusqu'à la date du 4 Février, ainsi que les communications échangées entre les Représentans des Quatre Cours Alliées et le Ministère de la Sublime Porte.

Il résulte de l'ensemble de ces renseignements :

1. Que Méhémet Ali a fait acte de soumission absolu envers son Souverain, et a sollicité son pardon.

2. Que pour preuve de sa soumission, il a restitué la flotte Ottomane, laquelle, après avoir été dûment remise entre les mains des Commissaires nommés par Sa Hautesse, a déjà quitté le port d'Alexandrie, et est entrée dans la Baie de Marmorizza.

3. Que la Syrie toute entière se trouve évacuée par les troupes Egyptiennes.

4. Que l'autorité du Sultan se trouve légalement rétablie et en Syrie et dans l'Ile de Candie.

5. Que Sa Hautesse le Sultan a daigné accepter la soumission de Méhémet Ali, en accordant amnistie pleine et entière à lui, à ses enfans, et à ses adhérens.

6. Que déférant aux avis de ses Alliés, Sa Hautesse a daigné annoncer en même tems l'intention de réintégrer Méhémet Ali dans les fonctions de Pacha d'Egypte, avec hérédité pour ses descendans.

Les conditions établies par l'instruction arrêtée à Londres le 15 Octobre, et par le Mémoire du 14 Novembre, se trouvent ainsi remplies: le Pacha d'Egypte s'est soumis; il a restitué la flotte—évacué le district d'Adana, la Syrie, l'Ile de Candie—donné les ordres nécessaires pour restituer les Villes Saintes;—finalement, il a obtenu son pardon après être rentré dans l'obéissance et le devoir.

En même tems, l'attente que la Note Collective, adressée à Chékib Effendi en date du 30 Janvier, avait énoncé, s'est déjà réalisée. Les conseils donnés par les Représentans des Quatre Cours ont été accueillis par le Sultan avec cette

confiance que les sentimens d'amitié et la coopération efficace de ses Alliés avaient été faits pour lui inspirer. En conséquence, Sa Hautesse a fait manifester sa détermination de faire émaner un firman par lequel l'investiture héréditaire du Pachalic d'Egypte serait accordée à Méhémet Ali sur la base des conditions posées par l'Acte Séparé annexé à la Convention du 15 Juillet; et ce firman devait être communiqué à d'Ambassadeur Ottoman à Londres, pour être porté à la connaissance des Représentans des Quatre Cours, après qu'il aura été revêtue de la sanction de Sa Hautesse.

Dans cet état des choses, considérant que les circonstances qui ont motivé le départ d'Alexandrie des Consuls des Quatre Puissances ont cessé d'exister,—les Plénipotentiaires des Cours Alliées ont jugé que le moment était arrivé où ces Agens devraient retourner à leur poste. Les Représentans des Quatre Cours à Constantinople s'entendent à cet effet avec la Sublime Porte pour fixer le moment où ces Agens se rendront simultanément à Alexandrie.

(Signé) ESTERHAZY. NEUMANN.
PALMERSTON.
BULOW.
BRUNNOW.
CHEKIB.

No. 166.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 9, 1841.

WE learn the fact that Mehemet Ali has granted to the traitor Ahmed Fevzi Pasha an annual appointment of 60,000 dollars, and has made him a present of an estate in the Delta worth 30,000 dollars, and also of the best house in Cairo with four gardens.

Mehemet Ali has given rewards also to the other traitors who aided in delivering up the Ottoman Fleet to Mehemet Ali. It will strike every man that this affords an instructive indication of the impolicy of giving to Mehemet Ali the command of the revenues of Egypt. It is obvious, that with the command of money that measure will give him, he may have the means of procuring other treasons as mischievous as that of Ahmed Fevzi Pasha; and that other Pashas may see the simple truth, that it is better to betray their Sovereign than to serve him.

I have done my best to oppose the establishment of the measure of tribute which was disapproved of by your Lordship. I am told the Austrian Minister aided by the other Ministers will have carried it through. I am happy that my name cannot be associated with the measure, and that I have had nothing to do with the act of delivering up Egypt to Mehemet Ali, and to France, which I am sure will be the consequence.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 167.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 9, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith for your Lordship's information, translation of an article which has been published in the Turkish Gazette, called the "Moniteur Ottoman."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Publication de l'Hérédité accordée à Méhémet Ali, et de la Solution de la Question Turco-Egyptienne.

(Traduction.)

12 Zuhéjje, 1266.
4 Février, 1841.

AINSI qu'il a été annoncé par la Gazette Numéro 216, Son Altesse Méhémet Ali Pacha a offert sa soumission à Sa Majesté Impériale; et son Excellence Mazloum Bey, un des principaux Employés du Gouvernement Ottoman, et Membre du Conseil de Justice, a été envoyé à Alexandrie sur un bateau à vapeur tout exprès, pour lui annoncer la bonne nouvelle que si, par suite des faveurs signalées dont il a été jusqu'ici l'objet de la part de Sa Hautesse, il prouve sa soumission par des faits, il sera réintégré dans le Gouvernement de l'Egypte. On a envoyé avec Mazloum Bey le très-distingué Yaver Pacha, qui avait été chargé de la commission de recevoir la flotte Impériale. Tout cela a été porté à la connaissance de Méhémet Ali Pacha par une dépêche que Son Altesse le Grand Vizir lui a écrite.

Par le retour de Mazloum Bey, la Sublime Porte a appris, que le lendemain de l'arrivée des Commissaires à Alexandrie Méhémet Ali, pour preuve de la réalité de sa soumission, et d'après l'engagement qu'il en avait pris, leur a remis tout de suite la flotte Impériale; qu'il a expédié les ordres écrits nécessaires pour la remise des Lieux Saints aux Agens de la Sublime Porte; qu'il a mis tous ses soins à faire sortir la flotte Impériale du Port d'Alexandrie dans le terme promis; et qu'Ibrahim Pacha s'est tout-à-fait retiré de la Syrie.

Comme, d'ailleurs, dans sa réponse, Méhémet Ali a donné des nouvelles assurances de sa soumission et de son dévouement au Sultan, le tems de l'accomplissement de la Promesse Royale est arrivé; et sa prompte obéissance aux ordres Souverains a été fort agréable à Sa Hautesse, dont le Très-Haut veuille conserver les jours et augmenter la prospérité et la gloire!

Mué par cette bonté et cette sollicitude paternelle qui la caractérisent, Sa Hautesse, qui a toujours comblé de faveurs les serviteurs de la Sublime Porte, veut bien considérer les derniers événemens comme s'ils n'ont jamais eu lieu; et non seulement elle a daigné pardonner à Méhémet Ali, à ses fils, à ses parens, et à tous ses employés, mais voulant aussi user de clémence envers Méhémet Ali, et envers ses fils, elle a accordé à Son Altesse le Gouvernement d'Egypte héréditaire. Mais attendu qu'il faut naturellement qu'un semblable privilège d'hérédité soit assujéti à quelques conditions nécessaires, et que la Sublime Porte veut que les Egyptiens, qui sont du nombre de ses sujets tout comme leur Gouverneur est du nombre de ses serviteurs, jouissent, dans toutes les circonstances, de repos et de tranquillité, il est de la dignité de Sa Majesté Impériale déposer, à leur égard aussi, quelques principes modérés.

En conséquence la Sublime Porte a résolu de fixer les conditions nécessaires de l'hérédité, et de faire quelques arrangemens qui en sont les suites et les développemens.

On s'occupe donc d'un firman qui renfermera les conditions dont il s'agit, et qui sera expédié, s'il plaît à Dieu, dans quelques jours d'ici par un Commissaire *ad hoc*.

Dieu en soit loué! la question Egyptienne est donc terminée de la manière qu'on vient de la voir.

Quant à la flotte Impériale, elle a été conduite au Port de Marmorice, où elle se trouve maintenant. Elle est sur le point d'accomplir sa quarantaine, et elle viendra ici par le premier vent favorable.

Remplissons un devoir imposé à nous tous,—celui de bénir sans cesse le nom de votre Souverain.

Cette affaire avait causé une certaine inquiétude dans les esprits; mais enfin elle est heureusement terminée, et c'est ce que nous portons à la connaissance du public.

No. 168.

Viscount Palmerston to Colonel Hodges.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 2, 1841.

I HAVE to instruct you to return to Alexandria whenever the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian Consuls are ready to do so. As you all came away together, you ought to return thither together; and the sooner you return the better.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 169.

Sir John Barrow to Lord Leveson.

My Lord,

Admiralty, March 3, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter and of its inclosures from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, containing details of the operations in Syria from the 25th of December to the 2nd of February.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 42.)

Sir,

"Princess Charlotte," at Malta,
February 19, 1841.

BE pleased to acquaint their Lordships, that by despatches I have received from the commanding officers of the Allied forces in Syria, containing the details of the operations carried on between 25th of December and 2nd instant, it appears, that the plan laid down by General Jochmus, in command of the Turkish Army, was, to drive Ibrahim Pasha from Damascus, and to force him to retreat by the desert, in place of marching by Gaza, notwithstanding which Ibrahim Pasha reached Gaza on the 1st instant, by a detour to the southward of the Dead Sea, on which some skirmishing had taken place. But, finally, on the 17th of January the orders arrived from Mehemet Ali for his son to retreat; and corresponding orders to the Allied forces, to grant every facility to that measure; when, after the necessary securities on both sides, a final and satisfactory arrangement was agreed upon, as will appear by Captain Houston Stewart of the "Benbow's" letter of the 2nd of February, of which I inclose a copy, reserving the more voluminous details for the packet, *via* Falmouth, for their Lordships' fuller information. It appears, that in leaving the "Benbow" in charge of the Commander at Beyrout, which he considered it necessary to do, Captain Stewart's presence at head-quarters was of essential service to the successful result of their winding up the contest in Syria.

As I cannot find words to convey the loss sustained by the lamented death of that brave and meritorious officer, Brigadier-General Michell, in more adequate terms than Captain Stewart has expressed in his letter of the 27th of January, I shall inclose a copy of that letter, giving me the melancholy intelligence of that event, which happened on the 24th ultimo, after only four days' illness, from exhaustion and over-exertion.

I beg to add, that, by letters from Rear-Admiral Sir John Ommaney of

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the 7th and 10th instant, the Turkish fleet made an attempt to get out of Marmorice with Admiral Walker, but, the wind failing, they were obliged to re-anchor, and still remain awaiting a wind to proceed to Constantinople.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

Gaza, January 27, 1841.

IT is with deep sorrow that I announce to you the death of Brigadier-General Michell, which took place at Jaffa on the 24th instant. Soon after his return there, on the 16th instant, from the advance of General Jochmus with the Turkish troops, General Michell complained of fever and ague, accompanied by great bodily pains, the consequence of numerous severe wounds received in former campaigns. He went to bed on the 19th in the afternoon; but, as the fever was speedily subdued, no danger was apprehended until about 7, A.M., on Sunday the 24th, and at noon his gallant, amiable spirit quitted its earthly tenement.

For the last five weeks we have been constantly together, and it is not easy to conceive a more cordial union between two officers of different services, than that which it was my good fortune to enjoy with General Michell. I shall ever lament him as one of the best-informed, most straight-forward, and excellent of men; and if I, who have known him for so short a time, experience so much grief for his loss, what must be the feelings of those who have been his friends and admirers for years!

I have the melancholy satisfaction to know, that I was of some use and comfort to my late gallant friend to the very last: and I am glad to be on shore on this coast at a time when it requires the utmost exertion of British firmness and vigilance, to prevent any unhappy collision which might occur from the mutual mistrust which subsists between the Turks and Egyptians.

Colonel Bridgeman succeeds to the command of our forces, and in him, I feel confident, Her Majesty's service will find an honourable and able director.

I was obliged to leave Jaffa for this place at 3, A.M., on Monday the 25th; but I have since heard, that every military and personal mark of honour and respect was evinced at Brigadier-General Michell's funeral there on the 26th instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 169.

Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

*Her Majesty's Ship "Vesuvius,"
off Jaffa, February 2, 1841.*

AS the "Dido" is getting short of provisions and the weather unsettled, I send her off at once, without waiting for communication with the shore here, which the surf will scarcely yet admit of. I embarked on board the vessel at Gaza yesterday evening with considerable difficulty. As it is my intention to despatch the "Vesuvius" this evening, calling at Acre and Beyrout, I shall send all despatches by her, and merely state to you in a hurried manner, that I left Ibrahim Pasha at Gaza. He arrived there on Sunday afternoon, when he immediately gave me an audience; and yesterday he gave a letter of assurance for the Seraskier, that he meant to comply with his father's orders by immediately evacuating Syria, which I have not the least doubt he will perform; but it will require a little time, unless the wind gets to the eastward, as there have been

three transports with biscuits for the troops, (and intended to embark the women, sick, and wounded,) off Gaza for six days without having been able to land anything yet from the great surf on the beach.

Six Regiments of Cavalry and 2,000 Infantry marched last week to El-Arish en route to Egypt. In consequence of the scantiness of the wells in the desert, it becomes necessary to regulate the march in small successive columns. Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, R.E., and Lieutenant Loring, R.N., of Her Majesty's ship "Carysfort," are now at Gaza, with directions to superintend and report upon the progress of the evacuation; and I entertain the hope, that within a fortnight from this date, there will not be an armed Egyptian in Syria.

I hope that Colonel Bridgeman, who is now in command of the forces, in consequence of the lamented death of Brigadier-General Michell, will, so soon as I can communicate with him, consent to allow the Marines to leave Acre, in which case I should direct the "Vesuvius" to take as many as she can conveniently accommodate, and the "Magicienne" to embark the rest: there will still remain the Marine Artillery at Sidon, and the "Hazard" is not able to take them with their guns, but the next vessel may. The "Stromboli" returned to Alexandria last night, not having sufficient coals or water to enable her to remain off here; and I expect the "Hecate" back from Alexandria (whither I sent her on the 25th instant, to communicate with Commodore Sir Charles Napier, on the subject of the Syrian conscripts at present in the Egyptian ranks, and to get coals) immediately. Head-quarters here ought not to be left without a steamer, as the only vessel which may safely keep the coast at this season of the year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain.

P.S.—Ibrahim Pasha sent nearly all his guns, women, and children back to Egypt by Suez, under Solymán Pasha's command, with from 3,000 to 4,000 men. There cannot be less than 18,000 fighting men now at Gaza; the Cavalry and horses in excellent condition, and always a large number of Irregular Cavalry.

No. 170.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 42.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 14, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of,

1. A firman, granting to Mehemet Ali the hereditary Government of Egypt, and setting forth the conditions the Sublime Porte attaches to the grant;
2. A firman, conferring upon Mehemet Ali the Government of the provinces bordering upon Egypt;
3. An Official Note addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Representatives of the Four Powers;
4. A letter from the Grand Vizier to Mehemet Ali.

At six o'clock yesterday evening, I received a report from the Dragoman, stating, that he had received the above-mentioned papers from Rechid Pasha, and that they should be translated and sent to me, as quickly as possible. He further informed me, that the originals of the firmans and the letter would be despatched this day at noon, in a steamer from Alexandria, and that the Consuls might profit of the occasion to return to Alexandria.

I inclose the Dragoman's report.

I received on the 9th instant a message from Rechid Pasha, as follows:—"I am preparing a firman which will contain the conditions. I have a plan, which appears to me excellent for conciliating the opinions of the three Representatives with that of Lord Ponsonby, with respect to the tribute; I intend to communicate the project of the firman confidentially to Lord Ponsonby."

The Dragoman continues:—"Rechid has not told me what he has found, or believes he has found, to conciliate the above opinions. Rechid has told me, confidentially, that when the firman shall be definitively settled, he will invite the Representatives to a Conference and communicate the firman to them, after which he will ask them this question:—"If Mehemet Ali does not accept these conditions, what do you intend to do?"

What I have stated above will show, that it has not been in my power to take any part in this measure, which has been concealed from me. Considering the relations between the British Government and the Sublime Porte, it appears to me, that the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs ought to have made Her Majesty's Ambassador acquainted with the measures taken by the Porte in this serious affair, before they were actually carried into execution.

I have replied to the Ottoman Minister's offer to allow the British Consul-General to go to Alexandria by the steamer, that I did not intend to require the Consul-General to go there. I have to request your Lordship's instructions on the above-mentioned point.

The situation of Egypt will be essentially changed in relation to Her Majesty's Government, if Mehemet Ali accept the terms declared in the firman, and Syria is separated from Egypt. It may not suit Her Majesty's Government to re-establish the British Consul in Egypt on the same footing he lately stood on. Mehemet Ali may refuse the conditions; and, lastly, it is impossible, I presume, for Colonel Hodges to leave this at so short a warning.

I will not obtrude my opinion upon your Lordship, respecting the settlement that has been made, further than to say, that it might be good, were it possible to carry it into execution. It is a half measure; it leaves the patronage of Egypt in the hands of the Pasha without any real control over the abuse of his power. It is a work showing how ignorant its authors are of the principles of Government by which despotic, as well as constitutional, States are ruled.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSOMBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 171.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 171.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 170.

[See Inclosure 5 in No. 171.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 170.

[See Inclosure 4 in No. 171.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 170.

M. Frederic Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

Péra, ce 15 Février, 1841,
à 2 h. p.m.

My Lord,

JE viens de Réchid Pacha. Il m'a remis quatre pièces: 1° Le firman accordant l'hérédité avec les conditions; 2° Le firman conférant à Méhémet Ali les autres provinces confinantes avec l'Egypte; 3° Une Note Officielle (en Turc) adressée aux Quatre Représentans; 4° Une lettre du Grand Vizir à Méhémet Ali. Les originaux partiront demain pour Alexandrie. C'est Saïd Muhib Effendi, le Ministre de la Justice, qui en sera le porteur. Réchid Pacha fait savoir à votre Excellence que les Consuls qui voudraient profiter de cette occasion pour retourner à Alexandrie pourront le faire. Le pyroscaphe partira dans l'après midi sans faute.

Je vais commencer la traduction des quatre pièces, et je vous enverrai une partie de mon travail à mesure que j'avance.

Je suis, &c.,

(Signé) FREDERIC PISANI.

No. 171.

Chehib Effendi to Viscount Palmerston.

11 Mars, 1841.

LE Soussigné, Ambassadeur de la Sublime Porte, a l'honneur d'informer son Excellence Lord Palmerston, qu'en conséquence des preuves que Méhémet Ali a données de sa soumission, Sa Hautesse vient d'accomplir gracieusement sa promesse, en le réintégrant sous certaines conditions au poste du Gouvernement héréditaire de l'Egypte, et en lui confiant l'administration de Nubie, Darfour, Cordofan, et Senaar; que Muhib Effendi, Ministre de la Justice, était parti pour Alexandrie, chargé, 1° des deux firmans concernant l'investiture de Méhémet Ali Pacha des Gouvernemens des susdites provinces; 2° d'une Ordonnance relative aux arriérés des tributs; 3° d'une lettre du Grand Vizir à l'adresse du Pacha d'Egypte.

Sur l'autorisation de son Gouvernement, le Soussigné s'empresse de remettre à son Excellence Lord Palmerston les copies des dites pièces ainsi que celles des deux actes adressées par la Sublime Porte aux Représentans à Constantinople des Cours Alliées et Amies. Il prie, en même tems, son Excellence de porter ces copies à la connaissance des autres Plénipotentiaires des Puissances Alliées à Londres, et de vouloir bien lui donner une réponse au sujet de la communication officielle.

Le Soussigné prie aussi son Excellence Lord Palmerston d'agréer l'assurance de sa haute considération.

(Signé) CHEKIB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Instructions given to his Excellency Saïd Muhib Effendi, on a Mission to Egypt, by order of His Highness the Sultan.

(Traduction.)

SAID MUHIB EFFENDI se rendra directement à Alexandrie sur le bateau à vapeur Impériale qui a été mis à sa disposition.

Il remettra, à son Excellence Méhémet Ali Pacha, le firman relatif à l'hérédité de l'Egypte; celui concernant la concession des Provinces de

Soudan et contenant quelques autres ordres; enfin, la lettre de Son Altesse le Grand Vizir. Il lui représentera en terme convenable que ces contestations et démêlés qui existaient depuis quelque tems étant entièrement écartés, il n'y aura plus désormais aucune espèce de division ou de dissentiment, et qu'il faudra travailler en parfaite union pour le bien de la religion, du Gouvernement, du pays, et de la nation. Il est naturellement nécessaire que les dits firmans soient lus officiellement en plein Divan, et rendus aussi public. Si Méhémet Ali Pacha exécute cette mesure spontanément, cela sera fort bien. Dans le cas contraire, le dit Effendi devra l'y exhorter en lui faisant les représentations nécessaires.

Il a été remis au dit Effendi le Nichan et le Fess, distinctifs des Vizirs, destinés pour son Excellence Méhémet Ali Pacha, et il sera nécessaire que ce dernier les mette le jour de la lecture du firman.

Dans le cas cependant où il ne se montrerait pas disposé à le faire, le dit Effendi devra l'y exhorter.

Dans le firman relatif à l'hérédité, il est dit et établi comme condition, que dorénavant les Gouverneurs de l'Egypte auront à se rendre en personne à Constantinople pour recevoir l'investiture. Toutefois Sa Hautesse ayant égard à l'âge avancé de Méhémet Ali Pacha, et mue par un sentiment d'humanité et de compassion, ne consent pas à ce qu'il s'expose aux fatigues d'une pareil voyage.

En annonçant ceci à Méhémet Ali Pacha, on devra ajouter, dans les formes convenables, que Sa Hautesse verrait avec satisfaction qu'il envoyât ici un de ses fils pour la remercier de l'insigne faveur dont il vient d'être l'objet.

Méhémet Ali Pacha devra accepter et exécuter immédiatement et sans objection toutes les conditions du firman relatifs à l'hérédité ainsi que toutes les dispositions contenues dans notre firman Impérial.

Si toutefois, contre notre attente, il devait être heurté par quelques unes des dites conditions, et qu'il montra de l'hésitation, le dit Effendi lui représentera, en termes persuasifs, que ces résolutions de Sa Hautesse sont définitives, qu'aucune d'entre elles ne saurait être changée ou modifiée, et qu'aussi les Augustes Cours Alliées ne donneraient pas leur assentiment.

Si le Pacha ne se laisse pas convaincre, et qu'il persiste dans son opinion, on tâchera de le faire entrer dans la bonne voie, en lui exposant qu'il est de son intérêt de terminer, sans provoquer de nouveau l'emploi des mesures coercitives; que si on était forcé de recourir encore une fois à la guerre, il serait seul responsable du sang humain qui y serait versé; enfin, que la non acceptation d'une des conditions établies portera atteinte à l'hérédité qu'on vient de lui accorder comme un insigne faveur.

Arrivé à Alexandrie, le dit Effendi comprendra dans la première ou dans la seconde entrevue quelle est la marche que compte suivre Méhémet Ali.

Si, après cinq ou six jours, sa mission se trouve terminée à souhait, il aura à s'en retourner aussitôt à Constantinople.

Si, au contraire, l'affaire lui paraissait exiger encore de longues discussions, et qu'il fut obligé de rester à Alexandrie quinze ou vingt jours, alors, comme il faut que nous connaissions ici la marche que Méhémet Ali suivra dans le principe, et le langage qu'il tiendra, le dit Effendi pourra renvoyer ici le bateau à vapeur Impérial avec un rapport contenant les notions qu'il aura recueillies en quelques jours dans ses entrevues avec Méhémet Ali Pacha. Dans le cas, enfin, que Méhémet Ali ne prit en aucune considération les ouvertures du Délégué de la Sublime Porte, et qu'il rejetât entièrement les conditions qu'on lui offre, alors, comme il faudra de nouveau concerter cette affaire avec les Cours Alliées, le dit Effendi devra exposer au Pacha la nécessité de lui donner par écrit son refus d'accepter les conditions en question. Il lui fera donc écrire clairement tout ce qu'il aura à dire, et soumettra cette pièce à la Sublime Porte, dont il devra attendre la réponse.

Le dit Effendi étant porteur de notre firman Impérial relatif aux arriérés des tributs de l'Egypte et de l'île de Candie et de la Syrie, il est évident que Méhémet Ali Pacha ne pourra rien objecter, mais qu'il devra

payer en entier le tribut de l'Egypte et de Candie jusqu'à la fin de l'année courant, et celui de la Syrie jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1255 (4 Mars, 1840). Cependant, si Méhémet Ali avait l'intention de garder ces arriérés à compte des frais que lui a occasionnés le séjour de la flotte Impériale à Alexandrie, on lui fera observer que le voyage et le séjour de cette flotte en Egypte ayant eu lieu contre la volonté du Sultan, la Sublime Porte ne doit pas supporter les frais que cela a occasionné; que cela serait d'ailleurs contraire au Traité conclu entre les Augustes Cours, puisqu'il est stipulé qu'on ne demandera aucune espèce de frais pour l'entretien de la flotte en question; que, par conséquent, on ne pouvait pas permettre que les arriérés du tribut fussent retenus par un pareil motif, et qu'il fallait que Méhémet Ali les acquittât sans délai, et réglât ainsi ce point d'une manière définitive.

Si le Pacha alléguait, qu'à cause de la guerre il s'est trouvé dans l'impossibilité de prélever en entier les impôts de la Syrie, et qu'il propose de ne pas confondre ce point avec les autres arriérés, mais de les régler séparément, on lui répondra qu'en effet la Sublime Porte devra recevoir de lui tout ce qu'il lui a été possible de prélever en Syrie dans la dite année, sauf à percevoir en suite le reste sur les lieux mêmes d'après les documents authentiques que devra lui fournir le Pacha. Dans le cas, enfin, où il serait de toute impossibilité d'arranger à Alexandrie l'affaire du tribut de la Syrie pour la présente année 1256, on établira que Méhémet Ali Pacha enverra ici un Commissaire *ad hoc*, avec lequel ce point sera réglé dans les voies financières.

Quant au passage du dit firman d'hérédité où il est question du contrôle, en voici le sens et le but. Comme le quart des revenus de l'Egypte doit revenir à la Sublime Porte, et que les impôts à payer par les habitants de l'Egypte doivent être conformes aux nouvelles lois de l'Empire, il faut que l'on connaisse ici exactement le chiffre des revenus effectifs de l'Egypte, ainsi que la manière dont y sont traités les habitants, et c'est à cet effet que la Sublime Porte veut y envoyer un employé qui devra y résider. Cet employé ne prendra aucune ingérence directe dans les perceptions des impôts, ni dans les dépenses; sa mission se bornera à constater les faits, et à recevoir les sommes qui reviennent à la Sublime Porte. Il n'y a donc rien dans tout ceci qui doive donner de l'ombrage à Méhémet Ali. Mais, quand même il hésiterait à y consentir, on devra lui faire observer qu'on ne saurait changer ce point arrêté d'une manière définitive. On ajoutera en terme convenable, qu'après avoir concerté la chose avec lui, la Sublime Porte enverra en Egypte un employé, à qui (puisque'il sera chargé de recevoir les sommes qui reviennent au Sultan) il sera convenable de donner le titre de *Tefterdar*.

Dans une des lettres de Méhémet Ali Pacha arrivées ici par Mazloum Bey, il a demandé que puisque le transfuge Ahmed Pacha, ainsi que Chérif Aga et Osman Bey, doivent être restés en Egypte, on y envoyât aussi leurs familles; on n'entend pas rejeter cette demande. Mais lorsque, en dernier lieu, la Sublime Porte a ordonné à Méhémet Ali, par l'intermédiaire de Mazloum Bey, d'expédier ici les harems de Sélim Pacha et de Muhib Effendi qui se trouvent à Constantinople, il a été répondu que la femme de Sélim Pacha étant une parente de Méhémet Ali, et le harem de Muhib Effendi n'étant pas content de lui, on ne pouvait pas les forcer à venir ici. Or, le harem de Sélim Pacha pourrait se rendre à Constantinople sauf à retourner en suite en Egypte, s'il le désire. Et quant à l'autre harem, quand même il ne serait pas content, il n'est pas convenable qu'il reste là, tandis que Muhib Effendi lui-même se trouve ici. Bref, il faut que ce harem, ainsi que le Miri Aloï Ibrahim Bey, dont on a dernièrement demandé le renvoi, soient expédiés, en tout cas, à Constantinople. C'est de leur arrivée ici que dépendra le renvoi en Egypte des familles des dits transfuges.

Le Commissaire, Muhib Effendi, devra donc exposer convenable tout ceci à Méhémet Ali Pacha, et travailler à ce que les deux harems susmentionnés, et Ibrahim Bey, soient envoyés ici.

Si le premier régiment des troupes de marine, et celui de la milice urbaine de Brousse, qui est parti avec la flotte Impériale, ont été dirigés et

remis au quartier général Ottoman, lors de l'évacuation de la Syrie par les troupes Egyptiennes, les intentions de la Sublime Porte se trouveraient déjà être remplies. Si, au contraire, ils ont été retirés dans l'intérieur de l'Egypte avec les troupes Egyptiennes, il faudrait à présent les renvoyer à Constantinople.

Pour le cas, donc, où les deux régimens susmentionnés n'auraient pas été remis au quartier général Ottoman, le dit Commissaire avisera aux moyens de les faire envoyer ici avec tous leurs officiers, soldats, et munitions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Firman of Investiture sent to Mehemet Ali.

(Traduction.)

Zilhadjé 21, 1256
Fevrier 12, 1841

C'EST avec une vive satisfaction que j'ai été informé de la soumission dont tu viens de faire preuve, ainsi que des sentimens de loyauté, de dévouement, et de fidélité que tu manifestes, tant envers ma personne Impériale, que pour les intérêts de mon Empire. Ces sentimens, joints au zèle et à la sagesse dont tu es doué, ainsi qu'à la connaissance et à l'expérience que tu as acquises par rapport aux affaires de l'Egypte dans le cours de ton administration, me sont garants que tu sauras mériter les marques de faveur et de confiance que je veux te donner, c'est-à-dire que tu en reconnaitras tout le prix, et que tu t'appliqueras à transmettre ces sentimens à ta postérité. Dans cette conviction, je t'ai réintégré dans le Gouvernement de l'Egypte, compris dans telles et telles limites, et y ai ajouté le privilège de l'hérédité sous les conditions suivantes.—

Lorsque par la suite le Gouvernement de l'Egypte deviendra vacant, il sera conféré à celui parmi tes enfans mâles qui sera préféré et choisi par moi, et le même principe sera suivi à l'égard de leurs enfans mâles. En cas d'extinction de ta descendance masculine, ma Sublime Porte confèrera le dit Gouvernement à quelqu'un autre, et les mâles issus de la ligne féminine n'y auront aucune espèce de droit.

Celui parmi tes enfans qui dorénavant sera monté au Gouvernement de l'Egypte, devra se rendre en personne à Constantinople pour en recevoir l'investiture.

Les Gouverneurs d'Egypte, bien que jouissant du privilège de l'hérédité, seront assimilés aux autres Vizirs sous le rapport du grade et de la préséance, laquelle se réglera d'après l'ancienneté; par conséquent, le cérémonial, les dénominations, et les titres dont on se sert à l'égard des autres Vizirs de ma Sublime Porte, seront également applicables aux Gouverneurs de l'Egypte.

Les dispositions salutaires de mon Hatti Chérif de Gulhané, toutes les lois établies ou à établir par ma Sublime Porte, ainsi que tous les Traités conclus ou à conclure entre elle et les Cours amies, seront de même exécutés en entier en Egypte.

Tous les impôts et revenus de l'Egypte seront perçus en mon nom; mais comme les habitans de l'Egypte sont aussi des sujets de ma Sublime Porte, et que par conséquent il faut les garantir à jamais de toute espèce de cruauté et de vexation, les dîmes, droits, et autres impôts qui seront prélevés dans le dit Gouvernement, devront l'être conformément aux principes en vigueur dans les autres provinces de mon Empire.

Quelque soit la somme à laquelle s'élèveront annuellement les droits de douanes, dîmes, et autres impôts et revenus quelconques du Gouvernement de l'Egypte, un quart de ce revenu brut, c'est-à-dire, avant d'en faire aucune déduction de frais, sera pris et payé à ma Sublime Porte; les autres trois quarts seront laissés aux Gouverneurs de l'Egypte pour les frais de perception pour les dépenses administratives et militaires, ainsi que pour leur propre usage, comme aussi en paiement de vivres que l'Egypte, d'après l'usage, fournit tous les ans, en nature, aux deux Villes Saintes. La qualité et le mode d'acquittement du tribut qui revient à ma Sublime

Porte sera valable, tels qu'ils sont déterminés ici, pendant cinq ans, à partir de la présente année, 1257. Ensuite ces points doivent être réglés d'une manière convenable conformément à l'état futur de l'Egypte et aux exigences du moment. Ma Sublime Porte ayant l'obligation de connaître exactement les revenus annuels de l'Egypte, ainsi que le mode dont on y prélèvera les dîmes et autres impôts, et cette connaissance ne pouvant être obtenue qu'au moyen d'un contrôle établi dans la dite province, on prendra à ce sujet les mesures que je ferai connaître par une ordonnance Impériale.

Ma Sublime Porte ayant résolu d'améliorer la monnaie de l'Empire qui sert de régulateur pour les transactions du peuple, et ce point devant être réglé d'une manière qui rendra désormais impossible toute altération de taux et d'aloi, les monnaies d'or et d'argent qui se frappent en Egypte en mon nom et avec ma permission Impériale, devront, sous le rapport de taux et d'aloi, et de la forme, être pareilles à celles de Constantinople.

Dix-huit mille hommes de troupes étant suffisant, en tems de paix, pour la sécurité intérieure de l'Egypte, il ne sera pas permis de dépasser ce nombre. Toutefois, comme les forces de terre et de mer de l'Egypte sont entretenues pour le service de ma Sublime Porte, celle-ci pourra en tems de guerre augmenter le dit nombre, de telle manière qu'elle le jugera à propos.

Comme il a été établi que les soldats qui seront dans les autres parties de l'Empire, doivent, après cinq années de service, être remplacés par de nouveaux recrues, cette même pratique devra ainsi être suivie en Egypte. Par conséquent on prendra parmi les troupes Egyptiennes actuelles les soldats provenant du dernier recrutement; et sauf à fixer plus tard la durée de leur service, d'après la date de leur enrôlement, on en formera 20,000 hommes, dont 18,000 seront employés, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, pour le service intérieur de l'Egypte, et 2,000 pour le service d'ici. Et puisqu'un cinquième de ces 20,000 hommes devra être renouvelé tous les ans, on levera annuellement sur la population effective de l'Egypte 4,000 recrues, en procédant avec la plus grande humanité, et en tirant impartialement au sort ceux qui remplissent les conditions voulus par la loi. De ces 4,000 âmes, 3,600 seront retenus là, et 400 seront envoyés ici. Mais tant les uns que les autres seront renvoyés dans leur foyer après cinq années de service, et ceux dont le terme sera achevé, ne pourront plus être enrôlés.

Quoique les troupes qui serviront en Egypte pourront, à cause du climat, être vêtus d'une étoffe différente, cependant la coupe et la forme de leurs habits, ainsi que leurs Nichans et drapeaux, ne se distingueront en rien de ceux en usage dans les autres troupes de ma Sublime Porte.

Les pavillons des bâtimens Egyptiens, comme ainsi les uniformes et Nichan des officiers et des soldats de marine, seront pareils à ceux d'ici.

Les officiers de terre et de mer, jusqu'au grade de Kal Aghassi (Majeur) exclusivement, seront nommés au choix des Gouverneurs de l'Egypte; les grades supérieurs ne pourront être conférés que par moi, sur la proposition des dits Gouverneurs.

Il ne sera pas permis aux Gouverneurs d'Egypte de construire désormais des vaisseaux de guerre sans la permission expresse de ma Sublime Porte.

Comme le privilège de l'hérédité dépend de chacun des présentes conditions, le non-accomplissement d'une d'entre elles entraînerait la révocation et l'annulation immédiate du dit privilège.

Tel étant ma volonté Impériale, toi et tes enfans et descendans vous devrez apprécier avec reconnaissance cette insigne faveur Impériale, et exécuter scrupuleusement les présentes conditions.

Vous aurez à veiller constamment au bien-être et à la sûreté des habitans de l'Egypte, à les préserver de tout acte d'injustice et de vexation, et à vous abstenir de tout procédé contraire au contenu du présent firman.

C'est dans ce but que cet ordre Impérial, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

Imperial Firman addressed to Mehemet Ali, conferring upon him the Government of Nubia, Darfour, Kordofan, and Senaar, and enjoining him to abolish the Negro-hunts, &c.

(Traduction.)

21 Zilhadjé, 1256.
18 Février, 1841.

A MON Vizir Méhémet Ali Pacha, Gouverneur d'Égypte, à qui je confie à présent l'administration des provinces de Nubie, Darfour, Cordofan, et Senaar.

O toi, mon susdit Vizir! comme ainsi qu'il a été dit dans une autre ordonnance Impériale, j'ai jugé à propos de te réintégrer dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte, comprise dans ses limites connues, et d'y ajouter l'hérédité sous certaines conditions, j'ai pris aussi la gracieuse résolution de t'accorder sans l'hérédité le Gouvernement de Nubie, Darfour, Cordofan, et Senaar, avec toutes leurs dépendances, c'est-à-dire, avec toutes leurs annexes situées en-dehors de l'Égypte, et j'ai rendu à ce sujet une ordonnance Impériale.

Tu t'appliqueras donc par suite de ton habileté et de ta sagesse à administrer et à faire prospérer ces pays conformément à mes intentions pleines de justice, et assurer le repos et le bien-être de leurs habitants. Tu soumettra, ainsi, à ma Sublime Porte une liste exacte des revenus annuels des dites provinces.

Les incursions que les troupes ont coutume de faire de tems en tems dans les villages des pays ci-dessus nommés, et par suite desquels les individus jeunes et vigoureux des deux sexes sont fait captifs et restent entre les mains des soldats en payement de leur solde, entraînent, nécessairement, la ruine et le dépeuplement de ces contrées, et sont contraire à notre sainte loi et aux maximes de la justice.

Comme donc cet usage, ainsi que celui de réduire quelques uns des dits captifs à la condition d'eunuques, est sous tous les rapports opposé à ma volonté Impériale, et qu'en général de pareils actes de cruauté répugnent aux principes de justice et d'humanité que j'ai hautement proclamés dès mon avènement au trône:

Tu aviseras avec la plus grande sollicitude aux moyens de les défendre sévèrement, et de les abolir d'une manière définitive.

Tous les officiers, soldats et autres employés qui se trouvent en Égypte, à l'exception de certains individus qui s'y sont rendus avec ma flotte, ayant été gracieusement pardonnés par moi, tu auras à leur annoncer à tous cette heureuse nouvelle.

D'après ce qui est dit dans l'autre ordonnance Impériale mentionnée ci-dessus, les officiers employés auprès de toi, et qu'il s'agira de nommer à un grade supérieur à celui de Kal Aghassi (Majeur), ne pourront être nommés qu'après qu'il en aura été référé à ma Sublime Porte.

Toutefois ceux qui se trouvent actuellement au service, seront confirmés dans leur grade, et tu auras à soumettre à ma Sublime Porte une liste de ces officiers, pour que l'on puisse publier et expédier leur firman de confirmation.

Ma volonté Impériale étant que tous ces divers points soient exécutés, tu devras t'empresse de t'y conformer exactement, et c'est à cette fin que, &c. &c.

Inclosure 4 in No. 171.

The Grand Vizier to Mehemet Ali, on his nomination to the hereditary Government of Egypt.

(Traduction.)

21 Zilhadjé, 1256.
18 Février, 1841.

L'EMPRESSEMENT de votre Excellence à remplir les devoirs de l'obéissance, en prouvant, par des faits promptement exécutés, la sincérité de la soumission que vous aviez offerte, a été fort agréable à Sa Hautesse,

qui a daigné en conséquence vous réintégrer dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte et vous en accorder l'hérédité.

J'envoie à votre Excellence par Saïd Muhib Effendi un firman revêtu d'un Hatti Chérif, et contenant certaines conditions attachées à l'hérédité, ainsi que le Nichan, que Sa Hautesse a bien voulu vous conférer, comme étant celui qui est affecté au rang de Vizir. Sa Hautesse est convaincu, qu'agissant avec cette prudence et cette haute sagesse qui vous distinguent, vous ne vous écarterez jamais de la voie de la droiture, de l'obéissance et de dévouement à votre Souverain.

Sa Hautesse a toute confiance en votre Excellence, et si l'on a établi des conditions dans le firman susdit, ce n'est pas qu'on ait le moindre soupçon sur votre compte. Mais indépendamment de la nécessité absolue que les conditions essentielles soient rattachées à une aussi grande concession que celle du privilège de l'hérédité, Sa Hautesse a voulu et a jugé à propos d'insérer ces conditions dans le firman, parcequ'elle les considère non seulement comme un moyen de prévenir toute espèce de différends qui, vu les difficultés de prévoir l'avenir et à cause de vicissitude humaine, pourraient surgir par la suite, mais aussi comme une mesure de précaution tendant à assurer pour toujours le repos et la tranquillité des habitants de l'Égypte.

Désormais la Sublime Porte aura tout aussi peu lieu de concevoir des soupçons que votre Excellence en aura de parler de sa sûreté personnelle et de l'avenir de sa famille.

Enfin, il n'y a plus entre nous aucun motif de contestation, c'est-à-dire les démêlés qui ont subsistés depuis, ont cessé, grâce à Dieu; et il n'y a pas de doute que votre Excellence ne remplisse avec empressement le devoir de témoigner sa reconnaissance pour les bienfaits et les faveurs dont elle a été ainsi l'objet de la part de Sa Hautesse.

Dorénavant nous serons, s'il plaît à Dieu, unis de cœur et d'âme, et n'ayant entre nous aucun sujet de division, nous emploierons, sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, nos communs efforts à servir notre religion, notre Gouvernement, notre patrie, et notre nation.

Ce qui me cause la plus grande satisfaction à moi, votre sincère ami, ainsi qu'à tous les Ministres de la Sublime Porte, &c., &c.

Inclosure 5 in No. 171.

Official Note from the Sublime Porte to the Imperial and Royal Internuncio.

(Traduction.)

21 Zilhadjé, 1256.
18 Février, 1841.

NOUS communiquons à votre Excellence ci-joint, une copie du firman Impérial qui, en raison des faits par lesquels Méhémet Ali Pacha a prouvé sa soumission, et conformément à la promesse de Sa Hautesse le Sultan, réintègre le dit Pacha dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte, et lui en accorde l'hérédité,—firman qui contient aussi les conditions que Sa Hautesse a jugé à propos d'établir à ce sujet.

Nous espérons fort et considérons comme très-probable que Méhémet Ali Pacha s'empressera d'accepter et d'exécuter en entier les dites conditions. Cependant si, contre toute attente, il refusait de le faire, ces conditions équitables ne seraient pas susceptibles d'être changées ou modifiées, vu qu'une pareille modification porterait atteinte aux droits de souveraineté, à l'honneur de la Sublime Porte, ainsi qu'à la dignité des Puissances Alliées. En outre, la Sublime Porte, ainsi qu'il est connu à votre Excellence, a agi, depuis le commencement de la Question Égyptienne, suivant l'avis et les conseils des Quatre Augustes Cours, ses Amies et Alliées. Par conséquent le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse le Sultan prie formellement les dites Cours de vouloir bien, dans l'hypothèse susmentionnée, lui accorder de nouveau l'assistance dont il aura besoin.

En attendant, puisque la question d'Égypte doit être considérée comme entièrement terminée, et qu'il n'existe plus de ce côté-là ni blocus, ni aucune espèce d'embarras, il sera convenable que les Consuls des

Quatre Cours Alliées qui ont été rappelés d'Alexandrie, soient renvoyés à leurs postes.

C'est pour communiquer tout ceci à votre Excellence que nous lui remettons la présente Note Officielle, pareille à celles qui ont été adressées à MM. les Représentans de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie.

Nous renouvelons à votre Excellence l'assurance de notre haute et affectueuse considération.

P.S.—Nous joignons à la présente une copie d'un autre firman Impérial qui confère à Méhémet Ali, sans hérédité, l'administration de certaines provinces situées en-dehors de l'Egypte, et qui renferme aussi quelques autres résolutions Souveraines.

Inclosure 6 in No. 171.

Circular addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Ambassador of France, and the other Representatives, to announce to them the final settlement of the Egyptian Question.

(Traduction.)

SON Excellence Méhémet Ali Pacha ayant effectué la soumission qu'il avait annoncée, la question d'Egypte se trouve par là terminée, et il n'existe plus, à l'égard de la dite Province, ni blocus, ni aucun autre espèce d'embarras ou d'entraves commerciales.

C'est pour porter officiellement ce fait à la connaissance de toutes les Cours étrangères, Amies de la Sublime Porte, que nous avons adressé une Note Officielle à chacun de MM. les autres Représentans, de même que nous remettons la présente à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de France, en lui renouvelant à cette occasion l'assurance de notre haute et affectueuse considération.

Inclosure 7 in No. 171.

Imperial Firman addressed to Mehemet Ali, relative to the Arrears of Tribute.

(Traduction.)

A MON Vizir Méhémet Ali Pacha, Gouverneur d'Egypte.

Je t'envoie, par Saïd Muhib Effendi, un des hauts fonctionnaires de ma Sublime Porte, qui se rend à Alexandrie, en mission extraordinaire les listes des tributs et arrérages qui se sont accumulés tant pour l'Egypte, que je viens de te conférer gracieusement à titre héréditaire, que pour la Syrie et l'île de Candie, qui ne se trouvent placés sous ton administration.

Comme tes fonctions t'imposent le devoir de verser intégralement et sans délai, dans mon trésor Impérial, les dites sommes arriérées, je t'adresse le présent firman pour que tu effectue en entier les payemens en question, et pour que tu fournisse par là une nouvelle preuve de ton obéissance et de ta fidélité.

No. 172.

R. More O'Ferrall, Esq. to Lord Leveson.

My Lord,

Admiralty, March 12, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of two letters from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated the

28th of February and 1st of March last, Nos. 45 and 49, with their inclosures, relative to the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian army.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. MORE O'FERRALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 45.)
Sir,

*"Princess Charlotte," at Malta,
February 28, 1841.*

I HAVE great satisfaction in communicating to you for their Lordships' information the gratifying announcement of the entire evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian army, which event took place on the 18th instant, when Ibrahim Pasha proceeded by sea with the sick and wounded, whilst the remainder of his army marched by land by El-Arish, as detailed by Captain Stewart and Colonel Bridgeman's letters, copies of which I have now the honour to inclose.

In thus concluding so happily and successfully an enterprise of no common description, and at one time of small promise from its apparently inadequate means and complex elements, as well as the imposing attitude of the Egyptian force then in possession of the whole country, with all its fortresses and strongholds; it is a matter of no small gratification to me, under so momentous a responsibility as Commander-in-Chief of the whole expedition, that I was able to accomplish in so brief a period and with so inconsiderable a waste of human life on the part of the Allies, objects of such paramount importance to the peace of Europe. In return for which I am bound to acknowledge with gratitude their Lordships' most liberal rewards to the officers who had opportunities of distinguishing themselves in the fulfilment of my orders.

From the various documents herewith transmitted, and the more voluminous correspondence now forwarded by the "Liverpool" packet, it will be observed by their Lordships that Captain Stewart's presence and co-operation in the final arrangements at Jaffa and Gaza were of most essential service as affording consistency to divided councils, and a firm and judicious support in honourable fulfilment, under delicate and conflicting circumstances, of the conditions under which the retreat of Ibrahim Pasha and his army, which turned out to be more formidable than was supposed, was finally effected.

Captain Stewart speaks most favourably of the conduct of the captains and commanders of the steamers employed upon that dangerous coast, and it is equally satisfactory to me. The only painful attendant on this warfare has been the more or less prevalence of fever and dysentery at Djounie and Acre, from which many have gradually recovered, but to many it has been fatal; I am however happy to be enabled to inform their Lordships, that in consequence of some cases of plague at Acre and Sidon all the marines are now embarked, and most probably now with the squadron at Marmarice, or on their way to Malta.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.

*Her Majesty's Ship "Benbow," St. George's Bay,
Beyrout, February 20, 1841.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to announce to you the entire evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian army; Ibrahim Pasha, who remained to the last, having himself embarked on board the Egyptian steamer on Thursday the

18th instant. This would have been effected last week had not the weather been such for several days as to render communication with the shipping impracticable. His retreat has been conducted with much less loss of life than had been anticipated. He takes about 30,000 men from Gaza back into Egypt by land and sea, exclusive of the column which marched by the Desert under the command of Solyman Pasha, with the women, guns, &c., said to amount to about 4,000 men.

I inclose you copies of the directions I issued before leaving Jaffa in the "Vesuvius" on the 16th instant to the different ships on the coast, by which you will see that the remainder of the marines and sappers have been taken from Acre by the "Hazard," and the whole of the marine artillery at Sidon are at this moment embarking on board the "Magicienne" for passage to Marmorice, the "Hecate" having communicated with her in passing Sidon this morning.

We brought up in the "Vesuvius" all the marine detachment from Jaffa, which (with those from Acre per "Hazard") are on board the "Benbow," and Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun's party of guns and artillerymen, which have been landed at Beyrout. The "Hecate" has brought up Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins's guns and artillerymen, together with the commissariat and head-quarters of the British, which, as well as that of the Turkish army, is now established at Beyrout.

In concluding the anxious duties which you have done me the honour to entrust to me, I gladly avail myself of the privilege as senior officer to report to you the satisfaction which I have derived from the exertions of every ship serving under my orders throughout the dead of winter on an exposed and most dangerous coast; and to the captains of the "Dido," "Magicienne," "Hazard," "Vesuvius," and "Hecate," my thanks are justly due for their unremitting vigilance and co-operation.

To Captain Thomas Henderson of the "Vesuvius" has fallen the heaviest share of the work, and to no better workman could it have been given.]

You are aware, Sir, of his generous attempt to succour the "Zebra" in the gale of the 2nd of December, since which he has repeatedly effected personal communication with the army of Jaffa and Gaza at times when many would have deemed it impossible.

Nor can I refrain from stating to you that the efficient order and strict discipline maintained by Commander Stopford with the crew of the stranded "Zebra" entitle him to your commendation.

My former letters informed you of the pleasing confidence which subsisted between the late Brigadier-General Michell and myself. In his successor, Colonel Bridgeman, I have found precisely the same anxious wish that we should act cordially together, accompanied by the same invariable personal kindness and attention.

I send the "Vesuvius" direct to you with the despatches from the different Authorities, together with a letter from Colonel Bridgeman, requesting me so to do, and I shall take duplicates from him to Sir John Ommaney at Marmorice, to which place it is my intention to proceed with "Magicienne" and "Hazard" as soon as possible, leaving the "Hecate" here at the disposal of Colonel Bridgeman.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

P.S.—Permit me to add that Lieutenant Loring of the "Carysfort," who was sent up by Commodore Sir Charles Napier to accompany Mehemet Ali's Envoy and to see Ibrahim Pasha out of Syria, endured much personal fatigue in endeavouring to find Ibrahim, and has most carefully superintended the embarkation, remaining at Gaza for that purpose.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Colonel Bridgeman to Admiral Stopford.

British Head Quarters, Jaffa,
February 19, 1841.

Sir,

IN my last despatch, No. 2, I informed your Excellency that the Egyptian forces at Gaza had commenced their march towards Egypt, and I have now the satisfaction of reporting to you their final evacuation of Syria. The inclosed statement of Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, who has superintended this evacuation from its commencement, will inform your Excellency of the numbers which have retired by land as well as by sea.

On the 5th instant I proceeded to Gaza, returning here on the 10th, and personally assured myself, in my interviews with Ibrahim Pasha, that he was no less desirous to hasten than we were to induce his departure; indeed, he was then only awaiting the arrival of transports and the return of two steamers to embark the remainder of his troops, and to take also his own passage; 1,000 Regular Cavalry and some Irregular Horse were the only mounted force remaining, and these would proceed by land. As Captain Stewart is about to return to Marmorice, and I believe thence eventually to Malta, I will not trespass upon your Excellency's time by entering into more detailed statements; I would only observe, that the Convention has been carried on, since I last had the honour of writing to you, with perfect good faith on both sides, and that Turkish and Egyptian Authorities have evinced all possible reliance upon British mediation, and acquiesced in all our proposals and arrangements.

I feel much bound to the Seraskier for his courtesy and attention to our suggestions.

The evacuation of the country by the Egyptians being thus happily in progress, I considered that I might with prudence and safety acquiesce in Captain Stewart's proposition for the embarkation of the battalion of the Royal Marines.

The portion of that force stationed at Acre, with the exception of Lieutenant-Colonel Mc Callum, one other officer, and a small detachment as a guard over the stores, embarked in the "Vesuvius," on the 3rd instant; and the same vessel removed, on the 16th instant, the detachment which has been stationed at this place; whilst Her Majesty's ship "Hazard," calling at Acre, will convey thence to Marmorice Lieutenant-Colonel Mc Callum, the officer and party remaining there.

Captain Stewart has also so especially urged me to consent to the withdrawal of the Royal Marine Artillery from Sidon, that I have assented to their embarkation in Her Majesty's ship "Magicienne," and I beg to refer your Excellency to our correspondence on the subject.

It is impossible for me to express how really grateful I am for the able advice, assistance, and support which Captain Stewart has afforded me, and I could not but sincerely regret his departure; but he has, I fear, experienced much personal discomfort whilst living at our head-quarters, and it is selfish, therefore, in me to do so.

As the Seraskier and head-quarters of the Turkish army are returning to Beyrout, it is my intention to remove there also, and the whole of the Artillery have been provided with passages in the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate" war-steamers. The appearance of plague at this place amongst some Turkish soldiers is an additional reason for this movement.

I do not enter upon the question of the release of the Syrians who may have been serving with Ibrahim Pasha's army, as Captain Stewart will, of course, communicate the correspondence that has taken place on that subject with Commodore Sir Charles Napier.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel Commanding British Forces in Syria.

Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.(No. 49.)
Sir,*"Princess Charlotte," Malta,
March 1, 1841.*

I BEG to transmit herewith copies of despatches which I have just received from Commodore Sir Charles Napier, at Alexandria, on the subject of the evacuation of Syria, with the extract of the Hatti Sheriff and correspondence with Boghos Bey.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

*Her Majesty's Steamer "Stromboli,"
Alexandria, February 21, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Lieutenant Loring joined me this morning from Gaza. I inclose his report, by which you will observe that the whole of the Egyptian army have left Syria. Ibrahim Pasha landed at Damietta on the 19th, and proceeded to Cairo.

Lieutenant Loring has had a very fatiguing and dangerous duty to perform, and met with little or no assistance from the inhabitants of the country through which he passed.

The menacing position of the Turkish army obliged Ibrahim Pasha to go round the Dead Sea, which has caused an immediate loss of human life.

I have great reason to be satisfied with the whole of Lieutenant Loring's proceedings, and I beg to recommend him to their Lordships' consideration.

The Emirs and Sheiks are arrived at Cairo, and the Pasha has promised to send them to Syria on their arrival here.

A Turkish Commissioner arrived there on the 20th with the firman from the Porte, a translation of which I beg to inclose.

The Pasha has accepted the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Articles, and the part of the 6th which regards the construction of ships of war; he begs the Sublime Porte to modify the Article 3rd, as being oppressive to Egypt; Article 1st he considers to be inadmissible, as it will bring discord into his family and civil war at his death; he also objects to the part of Article 6th which relates to the appointment of officers, as tending to disorganize the army, and bring his authority into contempt: hitherto all officers have been appointed by him with the exception of Generals of Divisions, and a deviation from that system would endanger the discipline of the army.

His objections appeared to me so well founded, that I made no attempt to refute them.

A good many Syrians have come into Egypt with the army; I have demanded their immediate release, but the Pasha at present is so irritated that he would not comply till he heard from Constantinople; this will, however, blow over in a few days.

The Turkish Commissioner has sent to Constantinople for fresh instructions, and I do trust they will be more reasonable.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

*Commodore Napier to Boghos Bey.**Her Majesty's Steamer "Stromboli,"
Alexandria, February 23, 1841.*

Sir,

LIEUTENANT LORING, whom I charged with seeing the evacuation of Syria carried into effect, informs me, that the whole of the Syrian troops, instead of being left at Gaza as agreed upon between us, have retired into Egypt.

I have to request that the Syrians may be sent forthwith into Syria.

Your Excellency must be aware, if any impediment is thrown in the way, it will give the Sultan as well as the British Government a just cause of complaint, as under the Convention it was never contemplated that the Syrians should retire with the Egyptian Army. It is true that, in order to avoid a collision, I authorized the officer in Syria, if necessary, to permit the Syrians to retire with the Egyptians, with the understanding, that the evacuation being completed, they should be sent to their homes.

It now becomes a duty for your Excellency to carry this into execution without waiting for the final settlement of the question relative to the hereditary succession, and I have to request your Excellency will give me a reply that I may forward it to the British Government by the "Liverpool," which sails to-morrow at noon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Boghos Bey to Commodore Napier.

Monsieur le Commodore,

Alexandrie, le 24 Février, 1841.

JE m'empresse d'accuser la reception de votre lettre du 23 courant, reçue hier dans la nuit, concernant les soldats Syriens qui de Gaza ont poursuivi leur route avec les Egyptiens vers le Caire, lesquels vous m'écrivez devoir être renvoyés chez eux après leur arrivée.

Son Altesse le Viceroy vous a parlé dans son entretien de hier soir, que d'après l'intelligence eu avec Mazloum Bey, cela n'aurait pas été de rigueur; néanmoins je puis vous assurer, M. le Commodore, que ces soldats ne tarderont pas à être renvoyés; j'en prends l'engagement, connaissant les sentimens élevés de Son Altesse le Viceroy.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) BOGHOS JOUSSOUF.

Sub-Inclosure 4 in Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Extract from the Hatti Sheriff conceding the Hereditary Government of Egypt.

22 Février, 1841.

L'EGYPTE, dans ses anciennes limites, vous est accordée à vous et à vos descendants mâles aux conditions suivantes:—

1°. Lorsqu'il y aura décès du titulaire, la Porte choisira parmi ses héritiers celui qui lui conviendra le mieux, lequel sera appelé à Constantinople pour recevoir l'investiture. La présente concession n'entraîne aucune préséance sur les autres Vizirs, et le Gouverneur en faveur duquel elle est faite ne jouira quant au titre et aux autres prérogatives que des avantages qui lui sont attribués.

2°. Le Hatti Chérif de Gulhané et les autres lois fondamentales de

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l'Empire, ainsi que les traités existans ou à venir avec les Puissances étrangères, seront exécutés en Egypte.

3°. Tous les impôts et tous les revenus de l'Egypte seront perçus au nom du Sultan; et comme les Egyptiens font partie des sujets du Grand Seigneur, les règles adoptées dans le reste de l'Empire pour le recouvrement de l'impôt, seront suivies en Egypte. Afin que le Sultan soit bien assuré que le peuple n'est pas pressuré, un quart des revenus bruts provenant soit des douanes, soit des dîmes, ou de tous autres droits, appartiendra au Sultan et tiendra lieu de tribut; les trois autres quarts seront affectés à l'acquittement des frais de recouvrement et des dépenses concernant l'administration intérieure, l'entretien des troupes, la maison du Viceroy, et les redevances en nature attribuées chaque année aux Villes Saintes. Les dispositions précédentes seront appliquées à dater du premier jour de l'année 1257 (aujourd'hui) pour avoir leur exécution pendant cinq ans, lequel terme expiré, il sera avisé selon les circonstances et l'état de l'Egypte. Pour que les impôts ne soient pas perçus d'une manière arbitraire et préjudiciable au peuple, le Sultan ayant contracté l'obligation de veiller aux intérêts de ses sujets, juge que la présence d'un contrôleur des finances est nécessaire en Egypte; vous vous conformerez à l'ordre qui vous sera transmis ultérieurement à ce sujet.

4°. Il doit être pris à Constantinople des mesures pour que les monnaies soient frappées au même type, comme aussi à un titre et à un poids en rapport avec leur valeur; les monnaies frappées en Egypte au nom du Sultan devront l'être d'après le taux adopté.

5°. Pendant la paix, l'Egypte peut se garder avec 18,000 soldats; ce nombre ne sera pas dépassé; et comme les forces de terre et de mer de l'Egypte sont à la disposition de l'Empire, la Porte en cas de guerre déterminera l'augmentation qui doit leur être donnée. Dans les autres parties de l'Empire, après un service de cinq ans le soldat est libre; cette règle sera exécutée en Egypte. En conséquence, sur l'armée existante on choisira, et d'après le tems de service, 20,000 hommes, dont 18,000 serviront en Egypte, et 2,000 seront envoyés à Constantinople. Tous les ans il sera procédé par la voie du sort, conformément aux règles de l'équité et proportionnellement à la population de chaque localité, au recrutement de 4,000 hommes, dont 3,600 seront incorporés dans les troupes de l'Egypte, et 400 seront dirigés sur Constantinople, le tout en remplacement des congédiés. Les soldats libérés du service ne pourront pas être rappelés sous les armes. Il est possible que, pour l'étoffe, les troupes ne puissent pas être habillées en Egypte comme elles le sont à Constantinople, mais pour la forme des vêtements, pour les insignes et les drapeaux, elles seront entièrement semblables. Il en est de même pour les troupes de mer.

6°. Le Viceroy d'Egypte ne peut donner des grades que jusqu'à celui de Solkal Aghassi (Adjutant-Major); pour les grades supérieurs, ils devront être demandés à la Sublime Porte.

Il ne pourra pas construire de nouveaux bâtimens de guerre sans l'autorisation de la Porte.

La conservation de l'hérédité étant attachée à l'exécution de chacune de ces dispositions fondamentales, en cas de non exécution la concession de l'hérédité sera révoquée.

No. 173.

The Plenipotentiaries of the Four Powers to Chekib Effendi.

Londres, le 13 Mars, 1841.

LES Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires des Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie, ont eu l'honneur de recevoir la Note en date du 11 de ce mois, par laquelle son Excellence Chékib Effendi, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire de la Sublime Porte Ottomane, a bien voulu leur annoncer, qu'en conséquence des preuves que Méhémet Ali Pacha a données de sa soumission, Sa Hautesse vient

d'accomplir gracieusement sa promesse en le réintégrant sous certaines conditions au poste du Gouvernement de l'Egypte, avec hérédité.

En notifiant cette détermination aux Plénipotentiaires des Quatre Cours Alliées, M. l'Ambassadeur Ottoman a bien voulu leur communiquer en même tems les firmans émanés à cet effet le 13 Février, 1841, ainsi que la Note adressée le même jour par son Excellence Réchid Pacha aux Représentans des Quatre Cours à Constantinople, par laquelle la Sublime Porte annonce que la Question d'Egypte se trouve terminée.

Les Soussignés se font un devoir d'exprimer à M. l'Ambassadeur Ottoman, au nom de leurs Cours, la vive satisfaction que leur a fait éprouver cet événement, qui, en amenant la crise du Levant à une solution définitive, réalise pleinement les intentions bienveillantes qui ont servi de guide à la politique des Cours signataires de la Convention du 15 Juillet.

Dans cet état des choses, les Quatre Cours ont répondu d'avance au désir que la Porte a exprimé de voir leurs Consuls retourner à Alexandrie; et le Protocole signé à Londres le 5 de ce mois a déjà invité les Représentans des Quatre Puissances à s'entendre avec la Porte, pour fixer le moment où les dits agens devront simultanément retourner en Egypte.

Quant aux détails qui concernent l'administration intérieure de cette province, et auxquels se réfèrent les firmans émanés le 13 Février, les Soussignés viennent d'être informés d'Alexandrie, en date du 24 du même mois, que la majeure partie de ces points se trouve déjà réglée.

En effet, Méhémet Ali a reconnu, sans réserve aucune, que tous les traités et toutes les lois de l'Empire devront s'appliquer à l'Egypte comme à toute autre province de cet Empire; il a souscrit aux ordres qui lui ont été adressés par la Sublime Porte pour régler en Egypte le système monétaire, la levée, le service, et l'uniforme des troupes, et la construction des bâtimens de guerre; il a replacé sous les ordres de Sa Hautesse le Sultan, les forces de terre et de mer de l'Egypte, dont la Sublime Porte elle-même vient de déterminer le nombre; en un mot, il se trouve aujourd'hui légalement placé envers la Sublime Porte dans la situation d'un sujet, Gouverneur délégué d'une province, faisant partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman.

En partant de ce principe, que la Convention du 15 Juillet était destinée à rétablir, c'est à l'autorité seule du Sultan, qu'il appartient aujourd'hui de résoudre les questions d'administration intérieure qui restent encore à régler, et de prendre en considération les vœux que Méhémet Ali a soumis à ce sujet à la décision de Sa Hautesse.

Sans entrer à cet égard dans un examen qui ne serait point de leur ressort, les Soussignés ne peuvent se référer qu'aux principes énoncés dans la Note Collective qu'ils ont eu l'honneur d'adresser à M. l'Ambassadeur Ottoman sous la date du 30 Janvier.

Ces principes basés sur les conditions de l'Acte Séparé de la Convention du 15 Juillet, serviront de règle aux explications amicales que les Représentans des Quatre Cours pourraient encore être appelés à offrir à la Sublime Porte.

Les Soussignés ont la ferme assurance que ces explications, conçues dans un sincère esprit de conciliation, trouveraient auprès du Sultan le même accueil qu'il n'a cessé de faire aux conseils déjà donnés par ses Alliés,—conseils désintéressés et sincères que Sa Hautesse a justement appréciés, lorsqu'elle a accompli, par un acte de clémence, une œuvre de pacification que ses Alliés l'avaient loyalement aidé à assurer.

Les Soussignés, &c., &c.,

ESTERHAZY. NEUMANN.

PALMERSTON.

BULOW.

BRUNNOW.

No. 174.

Sir John Barrow to Lord Leveson.

My Lord,

Admiralty, March 13, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated the 1st of March last, No. 48, with its several inclosures, detailing more particularly the proceedings attending the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 48.)

Sir,

"Princess Charlotte," Malta, March 1, 1841.

WITH reference to my letters of the 19th and 28th ultimo, transmitting copies of Captain Stewart's despatches from Jaffa and Beyrout, the latter communicating the entire evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian army, I beg leave now to forward the copies of letters and other documents, detailing more particularly the proceedings which latterly attended that result.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD.
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

British Head Quarters, Jaffa,
January 17, 1841.

MY letter of the 10th instant, forwarded by "Gorgon," would inform you of Brigadier-General Michell's and my own determination to confine ourselves strictly to precautionary and defensive operations. It will therefore be necessary to explain the circumstances attending a late advance of the Turkish troops upon Gaza, and for this purpose I transmit herewith copies of a letter which I addressed to General Jochmus* immediately after our last conference on the 12th instant, also of a note which I received from General Michell, after he had reached Ramla, and my reply to that note, sent by a staff officer to General Michell at Ashdod.

General Michell expressed in the most decided and unequivocal terms his disapprobation of the expedition. We both appealed to the Seraskier, who refused to incur the responsibility of putting his written veto on the advance, without which General Jochmus declared he should persevere, and accordingly he left Jaffa for Ramla within an hour. General Michell then felt that he was in a peculiarly awkward position, but with the true spirit of an English soldier, determined to accompany and render every assistance in his power to the Turkish Generals.

I also felt myself bound, notwithstanding my protest, to go down with the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate," and make a demonstration on the coast, especially as I thought I might render material assistance, by either threatening a descent on the Egyptians' rear to the southward of Gaza,

* N.B. Owing to General Jochmus's immediate departure, he did not receive my letter until his return.

by which their retreat on El-Arish would be endangered, or, in case of the Turks retreating, protecting with the great guns that hazardous operation.

At 4 A.M. of Friday the 15th, we weighed in the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate," and proceeded as far as Ascalon, when the weather became so thick, and blew so hard, with a heavy increasing sea, that after showing ourselves again off Jaffa, I requested Captain Henderson to run out fifteen or twenty miles for an offing, bank up the fires, and put the vessels under canvass. At 2 A.M. on the 16th, it being then more moderate, we bore up, and at daylight we put the steam on and steered towards Ascalon, but on getting sight of the beach, the surf was so excessive as to preclude all hope of being able to communicate with the shore for many hours to come. We therefore unwillingly returned off Jaffa, where we were not able to effect a landing until sunset, when I found General Michell just returned, having preceded the returning Turkish troops. The Seraskier had reached Jaffa about two hours previous to General Michell.

I ought to have stated, that by General Michell's desire, twenty-five marines were embarked on board the "Vesuvius" under command of Lieutenant Anderson, and a like number on board the "Hecate;" these have all since been disembarked here.

Brigadier-General Michell will send you an account of what occurred. It would appear that the state of the weather was such as to make it advisable, in General Jochmus's opinion, to return. There was a smart skirmishing affair with a part of the enemy's cavalry which were on a reconnoissance, in which, I hear from every quarter that the English staff officers were most forward and dashing. Colonel Rose, Assistant Adjutant General, received two wounds, but is rapidly recovering. Mr. Frederick Crawford, Midshipman of the "Benbow," zealously emulated the spirit and daring of the military officers.

Since writing the above, Lieutenant Loring of the "Carysfort," accompanied by Hamid Bey, arrived from Alexandria, bringing me despatches from Commodore Sir C. Napier. These officers, accompanied by Major Wilbraham, were immediately forwarded on to Jerusalem in search of Ibrahim Pasha, and it was my intention at once to have despatched the "Vesuvius" to Marmorice, touching at Acre, Sidon, and Beyrout, for invalids; but news has just reached the Seraskier, stating that Ibrahim Pasha was at Jericho, and threatening the troops under Rechid Pasha at Jerusalem.

In such circumstances General Michell deems it more prudent to keep both the steam-vessels off this place, until we shall have been able to ascertain how Ibrahim Pasha receives his father's orders to evacuate Syria, and the letters which we have written to him, anxiously recommending to him to second our sincere desire to avoid all unhappy collisions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 174.

*Captain Houston Stewart to General Jochmus.*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
January 12, 1841, 3 P.M.

Sir,

IN order that there may be no misapprehension on the subject of our Conferences yesterday and to-day, I think it right to put the particulars into writing.

When Rechid Pasha came to General Michell and myself yesterday morning, he stated that Ibrahim Pasha's army being now fairly entered on the Desert, there could be no reason for the 3,000 Egyptian men quartered at Gaza, being permitted to remain there, and asked us if we

would concur in an advance which should have the effect of ridding the Syrian country of the plunderers. General Michell and I both said that our instructions being to facilitate the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptians, there could be no political reason to prevent our co-operation, and that, provided the forces advanced were so great as to make resistance hopeless, and certain information received of Ibrahim Pasha having advanced south of any road by which he could march upon Gaza, there appeared, to be none of a military nature.

Very shortly after this, Rechid Pasha returned with your Excellency, when the same points were distinctly stated, and you expressed your conviction of the impossibility of Ibrahim's coming upon Gaza; that we should advance close to it, and you would send notice to the Egyptian troops, that they might have twenty-four hours to retreat, after which you would attack and occupy Gaza. Rechid Pasha said he would go immediately to Jerusalem, from whence he would write positive information upon which we might safely rely; that we should not move from this place until we received his communications. After his departure, General Michell and I paid your Excellency two visits, in which we found out, on examination of maps and Egyptian officers who had deserted from Gaza, that it was not only possible but very probable that Ibrahim might come on Gaza by the end of the Dead Sea, and that he might reach it within two days of the time in which your troops could. You then, to our utter astonishment, avowed that your aim was not to facilitate his retreat, but to annihilate his army, and prevent a single Egyptian getting back to his own country.

The Seraskier Zacharias Pasha, your Excellency, General Michell, and myself had a meeting this forenoon, at which you stated it to be your determination to advance; that you had orders for the troops at Jerusalem to make a combined movement on Gaza with those from Ramla; and that 6,000 men and 1,400 cavalry (900 of them being irregular), with twenty-four guns, would attack Gaza, destroy the provisions, and immediately retire, leaving two battalions in the place; that if Ibrahim Pasha appeared you would retire, and that, if he pressed you, you could retreat on the mountains near Jerusalem. There appears to General Michell and to me such an evident and imminent hazard in this operation, and so inadequate an object to be gained, so much evil would result from a retrograde movement, such disaster from defeat, that I declared I could be no party to it, and that so long as it was not ascertained beyond doubt that Ibrahim Pasha was not coming on Gaza, I could not afford any naval co-operation.

It is with sincere pain that I have come to this resolution; your Excellency has had no reason to doubt the hearty co-operation hitherto of Her Britannic Majesty's naval forces in promoting the Sultan's cause; but I should be betraying my trust, and acting in direct opposition to my orders, if I concurred in any operations which had for their object the prevention or suspension of Ibrahim Pasha's evacuation of Syria.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART,

Captain and Senior Officer commanding Her Britannic Majesty's ships and vessels on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in No. 174.

General Michell to Captain Houston Stewart.

My dear Commodore,

Ramla, January 13, Noon.

I HAVE found Seraskier, Jochmus, Wood, &c., all halted here. I have a letter from Napier at Jerusalem; Rechid Pasha moves with the Jerusalem battalions on to-morrow morning the 14th. The troops here move to-morrow also for Ashdod (or Ichdod), half way to Gaza: thus it will be better for you not to approach that part of the coast till the evening of to-morrow the 14th or the morning of the 15th. Rose goes with

this to Jaffa, so I write; but we have not yet had a satisfactory conference, and I hope to be able to write to you again by Major Robe, and to give more full details as to our probable proceedings, and as to the most effectual support to be given to them by your appearance on the coast.

Mr. Wood is prepared to give us in writing very powerful arguments in favour of a continuance of active offensive operations. His letter from Lord Ponsonby, after Captain Fanshawe's arrival at Constantinople, is strong upon the subject.

In case there should be no other letter from me you may consider that we shall approach Gaza on the 15th, and possibly early. Your demonstration may be made accordingly north and south of it, as you proposed, to-morrow afternoon and Friday morning.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD MICHELL.

P.S.—General Jochmus thinks he may be able to attack Gaza on Friday afternoon, therefore your demonstration should be made as I have stated. Take a few artillerymen if you like.

Sub-Inclosure 4 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart to General Michell.

Jaffa, January 14, 1841,

Thursday, 10 A.M.

My dear General,

THE weather has changed, as I expected, with the phase of the moon, which quarters this day, but I hope the wind will not get so far to the westward as to make it impossible to communicate with you from the steam-vessels off Gaza. Our starting too soon might have one of two effects; either it might induce the Egyptians to retire at once if they have notice of your advance, and despair of Ibrahim Pasha's, or it might cause them to make preparations to strengthen themselves within Gaza in the hope of giving Ibrahim time to come up. In this view I think it might be more wise not to show the steamers off the coast until a few hours before the advance of General Jochmus, and therefore I shall not leave this till 4 A.M. to-morrow (Friday), and, weather permitting, shall be off Gaza and a little below it by 8 A.M., before which time I deem it impossible for the Turkish troops to be in a position to attack Gaza. Notwithstanding all Mr. Wood would say or write, I am still of opinion that we are bound strictly and simply to such measures as tend to facilitate and not to embarrass the Egyptian army's retreat out of Syria.

We know Lord Palmerston's and the British Government's wishes and orders; Lord Ponsonby's orders must with us be subordinate to Lord Palmerston's; and when Fanshawe reached and left Constantinople, Lord Ponsonby did not know that the British Government had actually approved of Napier's Convention with the sole exception of the hereditary part of it, which in Mehemet Ali's letter of submission is not insisted on. You and I have been imposed upon and ill-used by people who say and unsay as it suits their purposes; and General Jochmus's after-avowal that his aim was to prevent the return of a single Egyptian to his own country, ought to make us very cautious how we countenance any act of his, having that exterminating and ultra act for its end. We have promised the Admiral that we will act strictly on precautionary and defensive principles.

If Ibrahim Pasha is coming to Gaza, things will be very serious, and Jochmus may repent his obstinacy and bad faith when too late. If, on the contrary, he is really going the other road, then it is a matter of no importance, and assumes the light in which it was first presented to us by Rechid Pasha and Jochmus, to which we assented.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART.

Sub-Inclosure 5 in No. 174.

Brigadier-General Michell to Admiral Stopford.

My dear Sir,

Jaffa, January 17, 1841.

KNOWING that Captain Stewart writes to you fully upon the late events on this part of the coast, I think it unnecessary to trouble you with details, and shall, therefore, merely forward a copy of a letter which General Jochmus has given me, as the substance of what he has to communicate to you, and add some observations of my own.

The movement upon Gaza seemed to be for a time abandoned, but on the 11th of January, General Jochmus again proposed it, and at length persuaded the new Seraskier, and his influential staff officer and adviser Rechid Pasha, to adopt his views upon the subject. For my own part, I was more than ever opposed to the measure, influenced in particular by your last letters, but also by military reasons. The attack was, however, resolved on, and I could not do otherwise than accompany the troops to witness the results.

My own natural feelings prompted this determination, and it was in fact fully justified, if not enjoined, by a paragraph in Lord Palmerston's instructions to Sir Charles Smith, with which you are acquainted.

Bad weather, delay in the march of the co-operating battalions from Jerusalem, the non-arrival of the expected cavalry from the mountains, all these being circumstances which I had more or less anticipated, caused the operation to be abandoned.

In the mean time, a body of Egyptian cavalry having made an attack upon a village which we occupied, the skirmish of which General Jochmus makes mention, occurred on the 15th, near Ascalon, and the result was decidedly advantageous and creditable to the Turkish troops.

The English staff-officers were forward, conspicuous, and useful on the occasion. Colonel Rose, after displaying much personal prowess on the occasion, received two wounds, which at first appeared to me of a serious nature, but I am happy to say he is now doing well, and there is no doubt of his speedy recovery.

I must also state to you that much praise is due to Mr. Frederick Crawford, Midshipman of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," who by Captain Stewart's permission accompanied me as an extra aide-de-camp, and who throughout the movements, but more particularly in the affair of the 15th, distinguished himself by his zeal, activity, intelligence, and courage.

Though the withdrawal of the artillery and infantry may give an appearance of retreat and failure, yet, in all probability, you will not be sorry that a decidedly hostile attack on Gaza did not take place.

The troops had scarcely returned to Jaffa when Lieutenant Loring of Her Majesty's ship "Carysfort," arrived in company with an Egyptian officer, bringing despatches from Commodore Sir Charles Napier, which announced the conclusion of his Treaty with Mehemet Ali, and also orders from the now re-instated Pasha of Egypt to his son, for the immediate evacuation of Syria.

These officers were immediately provided with horses and escort and sent off to Jerusalem, accompanied by a staff-officer of the Seraskier, and by Major Wilbraham, one of the English Adjutant-Generals under my command, with instructions and credentials to proceed to the headquarters of the Egyptian Army; and in the meantime it has been directed that the Turkish troops shall be limited to purely defensive and protective operations.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD MICHELL.

Sub-Inclosure 6 in No. 174.

Colonel Bridgeman to Admiral Stopford.

Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
January 26, 1841.

Sir,

WITH the deepest and most unfeigned sorrow I have to communicate to your Excellency the death of Brigadier-General Michell. This afflicting event took place at Jaffa on Sunday last, the 24th instant, after an illness of four days.

Constant exposure to the rain, during the operations upon Gaza, induced fever, and his constitution, which had been much broken by many severe wounds, was unable to withstand the weakening and prostrating effects of the disease.

The command of the British troops in Syria has devolved therefore upon me, as the senior officer, and incompetent as I may be to its very many responsible duties, I have the satisfaction of believing that your Excellency will permit me to profit by your advice and counsel, and that whilst I am in immediate communication with Captain Houston Stewart, I shall have the advantage of his sound judgment and experience.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel.

Sub-Inclosure 7 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.

British Head Quarters, Jaffa,
January 23, 1841.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive your letters of the 15th and 16th instant, yesterday, the "Cyclops" having put them on shore at Acre, from whence they have been forwarded by a Courier. Both General Michell and I regretted that Captain Austin conceived he had not time to run down here in terms of general directions left at Beyrout, as his immediate return from hence to Marmore would have conveyed to you and to Government the latest intelligence.

My letter of the 17th instant, which goes by this conveyance, will acquaint you with the state of affairs up to that date, and I now beg to transmit to you copies of the letters addressed by Brigadier-General Michell and myself to Ibrahim Pasha, and to the Egyptian Commanding Officer at Gaza, together with the instructions issued to the respective officers sent to Ibrahim Pasha, to accompany Lieutenant-General Jochmus, and to Gaza. In consequence of the extreme anxiety manifested by Lieutenant-General Jochmus and Mr. Wood to drive matters to extremities with Ibrahim Pasha, it became very difficult to arrange safe and honourable proceedings, especially as no instructions for the Turkish authorities had reached them either from Alexandria or Constantinople.

Fortunately these instructions reached the Seraskier, *via* Beyrout, two days after the receipt of Commodore Sir Charles Napier's letter from Alexandria, but to the surprise of General Michell and myself, there are two secret Articles appended to these instructions.

1. "That all the Syrians serving in the Egyptian ranks should have permission to remain with their arms in Syria."
2. "That Ibrahim Pasha should surrender up his guns, arms, baggage, and ammunition."

The insisting upon these Articles, one or both, is made to depend upon the relative state, and strength, and condition of the Turkish and Egyptian forces. Lieutenant-General Jochmus declared he could "cut them to pieces." Mr. Wood supported him, but the majority of the

Council, composed of the Seraskier, Moustechar Effendi, Houssein Pasha, Rechid Pasha, General Michell, and myself thought otherwise, and with difficulty we obtained a positive assurance that no act of hostility should take place; that a British officer should accompany General Jochmus; and Omar Pasha, with Captain Arbuthnot, Royal Navy, should proceed in search of Ibrahim Pasha, and assure themselves, with the least possible delay, that Ibrahim Pasha would obey his father's orders. Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, Royal Engineers, was sent off to Gaza as Conservator of the Peace, and to urge the immediate departure of some of the Egyptian troops from thence towards Egypt. I inclose copies of the instructions issued to all these officers, as well as of protests which Lieutenant-General Jochmus and Mr. Wood thought proper to write to the Seraskier, after the resolution of the "Council of War" which had been held.

The Memoranda to the officers are signed by me for General Michell, by his own express desire, as I regret to say, he was too ill to write, and Colonel Bridgeman also so ill as to be confined to bed. General Michell went to bed complaining of fever and ague, after the termination of the tedious council of the 19th instant, and has not been well enough to rise yet, but every thing has been done by his desire and consent.

The fatigue and exposure incurred during the advance towards Gaza on the 14th, 15th, and 16th, have been the cause of his illness, and the numerous severe wounds which he received in former campaigns make his bodily sufferings very great.

I only keep the "Dido" until I shall be enabled to communicate to you how Ibrahim Pasha receives the intelligence from Alexandria, when I will immediately despatch her: but from the want of information as to his exact position, and from the dangers of the road caused by tribes of wandering [Arabs], who attack friend or foe, it may be some time yet, ere any of the officers are enabled to send us satisfactory intelligence of their having found him.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain of Her Britannic Majesty's Ship "Benbow,"
and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 8 in No. 174.

Brigadier-General Michell and Captain Houston Stewart to Ibrahim Pasha.

British Head Quarters,
Jaffa, January 17, 1841.

General,

WE have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency, that we have this day received instructions to permit the embarkation of the sick, the wounded, and the women and children of the Egyptian army, at Caiffa, or any other point of Syria, which may be more convenient to their present position; and further, that we are recommended to afford every facility for the evacuation of Syria by the army under your Excellency's command, in order that such evacuation may be effected with the least possible loss of life; and we beg to assure your Excellency of our cordial wish and desire that such measures may be adopted on both sides as may ensure the avoidance of any unhappy collisions; and we trust, that your Excellency, animated by the same feelings, will issue your orders in accordance with this principle.

(Signed) EDWARD MICHELL,
Brigadier-General commanding Her Britannic Majesty's Land Forces
on the Coast of Syria.

(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Benbow,"
and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 9 in No. 174.

Brigadier-General Michell and Captain Houston Stewart to the Officer Commanding the Egyptian Troops at Gaza.

British Head Quarters,
Jaffa, January 17, 1841.

Sir,

WE have the honour to inform you, that we have received official instructions, to the effect that "Mehemet Ali having made his submission to the Porte, which has been accepted, His Highness is now re-instated in the Pashalic of Egypt," and we are ordered to afford every facility for the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops under the command of his Excellency, Ibrahim Pasha.

An Egyptian officer, sent by Mehemet Ali Pasha, accompanied by a Turkish and two English officers, go off from this place to-day, in search of Ibrahim Pasha, being the bearers of despatches from Mehemet Ali Pasha, requiring him immediately to withdraw, with all his troops, from Syria. We therefore most earnestly call upon you, most strictly to abstain from every act which can tend to provoke any renewal of hostilities, and we promise you in return, that our Allies the Turks shall refrain from any aggression towards you. All plundering, and even foraging, must be strictly forbidden, otherwise we shall hold you responsible for the consequences, which in that case we should not have the power to control.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWARD MICHELL,
Brigadier-General commanding the British Troops
on the Coast of Syria.

(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Senior Naval Officer on the Coast of Syria.

P.S.—The officers who proceed in search of Ibrahim Pasha, will go by Jerusalem, Jericho, and Izatt, but if you know of any more direct route by which letters might reach his Excellency, we request you will not lose a moment in forwarding to him copies of this and the other documents transmitted to you from hence.

Sub-Inclosure 10 in No. 174.

Memorandum for Colonel Colquhoun's guidance.

(Private.)

Jaffa, January 21, 1841.

THE Turkish General-in-Chief has declared solemnly that he has no wish whatever to deprive Ibrahim of his arms, baggage, or guns, and certainly will do nothing to render him desperate, or to provoke hostilities. You are required to accompany General Jochmus, on the part of General Michell and the British forces, to see that this declaration be fairly and honourably acted up to, General Jochmus being bound to do nothing beyond what may be justly necessary for measures of precaution and defence. You will report proceedings as frequently as possible to General Michell.

It is proposed to invite Ibrahim Pasha to retire upon Egypt, *via* Gaza, (should he wish it,) in successive columns, none of which must exceed 3,000 men, he receiving the guarantee of the Seraskier, the General, and the Senior Naval Officer, that these columns shall not be molested in any way, so long as they themselves abstain from hostilities.

Should you observe any disposition on the part of the Officer commanding the Turkish troops to infringe on the above principles, you will advise him to abstain, and should he persist, you will formally protest against such disposition.

By desire of GENERAL MICHELL,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART.

Sub-Inclosure 11 in No. 174.

Memorandum for Captain Arbuthnot's guidance.

(Private.)

Jaffa, January 21, 1841.

THE Turkish General-in-Chief, Seraskier Zacharias Pasha, has declared solemnly that he has no wish whatever to deprive Ibrahim Pasha of his arms, baggage, or guns, and that he will certainly do nothing to render him desperate, or to provoke hostilities. You are required to accompany Omar Pasha to Ibrahim Pasha, and there propose to him to retire immediately from Syria, with the whole of his troops. You will endeavour to induce him to allow all the Syrian conscripts he may have with his army, to return to their country with their arms; and should he wish to retire by the way of Gaza, he must do so in successive columns of troops, not exceeding 3,000 men each, until every Egyptian shall have passed the frontier. The Seraskier, General Michell, and Captain Houston Stewart offer their guarantee that these columns shall not be in any manner molested in their retreat, so long as they themselves abstain from hostilities. The women, children, sick, and wounded, and medical attendants, will be permitted to embark at any port of Syria which Ibrahim Pasha may deem most convenient. But no combatant will be allowed to embark unless he previously deliver up his arms. You are to understand, that the immediate evacuation of Syria by the whole of the Egyptian forces, is the main point, to which all others are secondary. You will communicate the result of your mission to me and to Captain Stewart, with the utmost possible dispatch, and especially as to the fact of whether Ibrahim Pasha intends to avail himself of the permission to embark his women and wounded, where, and about what time,—as the Egyptian steamer remains at Caiffa, to carry back information on this point to Alexandria, and if necessary, to cause transports to be sent.

For GENERAL MICHELL,

(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART.

Sub-Inclosure 12 in No. 174.

Memorandum for Colonel Alderson's guidance.

(Private.)

Jaffa, January 22, 1841.

ACCOUNTS having been received by the Seraskier that a considerable number of Egyptian troops have advanced towards Gaza, his Excellency has requested that an English officer of rank and discretion should proceed to the quarters of the Egyptian officer commanding the troops in that neighbourhood, to act as Conservator of the Peace. In all probability the Egyptian Commandant will not feel himself authorized to order any of these troops to retire until he shall receive directions from Ibrahim Pasha; but you will point out to him the evident necessity that exists for the avoidance of any the smallest act of hostility or plunder, if he would not break the Convention and renew the war. So long as you are satisfied that he is acting in good faith, and doing everything possible to maintain order and peace towards the Turkish troops and inhabitants of the neighbourhood, you will remain with him, taking occasion at all times to point out and to urge upon him the propriety of hastening, by any means in his power, the evacuation of Syria, in terms of Mehemet Ali Pasha's order to his son Ibrahim Pasha. Should you have reason to object to any of his proceedings, you will at once remonstrate and protest: should he persist, you will formally take your leave, and immediately return to the British headquarters, giving notice that you have done so to the officer commanding the nearest post of the Ottoman troops, and putting him on his guard. You will communicate with head-quarters as frequently as possible, and notify as exactly as you can the number and state of the Egyptian troops in that district.

You will have with you copies of the letters which have been forwarded to Ibrahim Pasha, and of Commodore Sir Charles Napier's letters from Alexandria to General Michell and to Captain Stewart. The Seraskier Pasha has declared that he has no design to deprive the Egyptians of their arms, baggage, or guns; and that he wishes, by every fair and safe means, to facilitate the retirement from Syria of the Egyptian forces. Copies of the instructions given to the officers sent to Ibrahim Pasha, and to accompany General Jochmus, will also be furnished to you; and you will observe that the immediate evacuation of Syria is the principal object to which all others are to be considered as secondary.

By desire of GENERAL MICHELL,

(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART.

Sub-Inclosure 13 in No. 174.

*Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.**British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 2, 1841.*

Sir,

IN consequence of the uneasiness evinced by the Turkish Authorities at the reported concentration of the Egyptian forces at Gaza, and the total want of any correct information as to the actual position of Ibrahim Pasha, and consequent ignorance of his intentions with regard to the evacuation of Syria, I went to Gaza on the 25th ultimo, and after various interviews with Menikli Ahmed Pasha commanding there, we drew up the Agreement of which you will receive copies herewith, together with the subsequent acceptance of our stipulations on the part of the Turkish Authorities here.

The Egyptians were manifestly unwilling to diminish their front until assured of the safety of their rear, commanded by Ibrahim in person; but we persuaded them by our guarantee to send off daily two regiments of cavalry. It has been extremely difficult to overcome the mistrust existing on both sides, and still requires much attention and caution; but Colonel Bridgeman, who commands the forces, entertains precisely similar views with myself, and I hope we shall be able to keep all quiet and right. On Sunday afternoon, the 31st of January, Ibrahim Pasha arrived at Gaza, and he immediately gave us an audience, and yesterday he gave a letter of assurance for the Seraskier, that he meant to comply with his father's orders by immediately evacuating Syria, which I have not the least doubt he will perform; but it will require a little time unless the wind gets to the eastward, as there have been three transports with biscuits for the troops (and intended to receive the women, sick, and wounded) off Gaza for six days, without being able to land anything, owing to the great surf on the beach.

Six regiments of cavalry and 2,000 infantry marched last week on El-Arish. In consequence of the scantiness of the water in the wells in the Desert, it becomes necessary to regulate the march in successive columns. Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Loring, Royal Navy, of Her Majesty's ship "Carysfort," are at Gaza, with directions to superintend and report upon the progress of evacuation, and I entertain the hope that within a fortnight from this date there will not be an armed Egyptian in Syria. On the 26th instant, after my arrival at Gaza, finding that the question of Syrian conscripts being allowed to remain in Syria with their arms, was anxiously insisted upon by the Turks, and as stoutly declined by the Egyptians, it was agreed that those who marched in the meantime should be noted in a list given to Colonel Alderson, and should the authority come from Alexandria, they were to be returned free of expense; and I immediately sent the "Hecate" on to communicate with Commodore Sir Charles Napier on the subject, and to get coals. The "Stromboli" returned, bringing me intelligence that Sir

Charles Napier and Captain Martin were at Cairo, but that Captain Ward had (pursuant to instructions given in the event of their absence) an interview with Mehemet Ali Pasha, in which he was assured that it had been arranged and agreed five days before by himself, the Turkish Commissioner, Mazloum Bey, and the Commodore, that the Syrian conscripts should remain with their regiments till their arrival at Alexandria, when they would be exchanged for the Egyptians now remaining in Candia, the Hedjaz, and at Constantinople. I sent the "Stromboli" back to Alexandria last night, and the "Hecate" is just now in sight on her way back.

Ibrahim Pasha sent nearly all his guns, women, and children back to Egypt by Suez, under Solyman Pasha's command, with from 3,000 to 4,000 men. There cannot be less than 18,000 fighting men now at Gaza; the infantry, fatigued and weakened by a long Desert march, Ibrahim having gone very much to the south of the Dead Sea, in order to avoid the hostile tribes about El-Hated and the south end of the Dead Sea; but the cavalry quite fresh, and the horses in excellent condition.

It is my opinion, from all that I have seen and heard, that he will take about 28,000 or 30,000 troops back into Egypt. The information received on the state of his troops and their numbers by General Jochmus and others, has been ludicrously incorrect, as Rechid Pasha most feelingly allowed, when we rode together through Menikli Ahmed Pasha's camp at Gaza.

I inclose a letter from General Jochmus to the Seraskier, dated the 22nd of January, from Jerusalem, when he insisted on advancing the troops towards the frontier, after the receipt of the news of the Convention having been approved of, which will show his estimate of the ruined state and condition of Ibrahim's army.

Colonel Bridgeman has consented to allow the greater part of the marines to be embarked at Acre, leaving a Captain's guard of the strongest and most healthy men on the stores there. Lieutenant-Colonel Mc Callum is to have his option to remain there for the present in charge, or to join head-quarters, or to embark in the "Vesuvius" and proceed to Marmorice. I shall direct the "Vesuvius" to call at Acre and Beyrout, and to take all invalids up. There will still remain the marine artillery at Sidon; but Captain Steele has received authority to remove to Beyrout either by sea or land, should sickness prevail; but there has been, according to the best accounts, but one case of plague. The "Hazard" is now at Tyre, as being the securest anchorage; the "Magicienne" between Acre and Tyre. I hope very soon to be able to send both of these ships to your flag, and I shall, ere long, get back to my own ship; but though somewhat inconvenient, I feel that this is my proper post for the present, and so I shall remain until the greater part of the Egyptians are out of Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 14 in No. 174.

Colonel Bridgeman to Admiral Stopford.

*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 2, 1841.*

Sir,

ON the 17th of January a letter was addressed to your Excellency by Brigadier-General Michell, (inclosing a despatch from Lieutenant-General Jochmus,) in which the operations against Gaza and their result, as well as General Michell's observations thereon, will have placed your Excellency in possession of the events which have taken place on this part of the coast to that date inclusive. Major Wilbraham, Lieutenant Loring,

Royal Navy, and Hamid Bey, (whose departure hence for the head-quarters of Ibrahim Pasha was mentioned in General Michell's letter,) after a long and fruitless expedition by the southern extremity of the Dead Sea, turned westward to Gaza, hoping there to obtain some accurate information of Ibrahim Pasha's line of march; from thence Lieutenant Loring returned to this place on the 23d of January, bringing us information of the arrival there on the 22d January of Ahmed Pasha with the advanced guard of Ibrahim Pasha's army.

Major Wilbraham, on the same day, again left Gaza with Hamid Bey, for El-Khalil, from whence, on the 25th, he proceeded to the Pass of Suera, through which it was expected Ibrahim Pasha would retire to Gaza, accompanied by Hamid Bey and by Omar Pasha, and also by Captain Arbuthnot, Royal Navy, who having arrived in Syria on the 21st instant, had been sent on a similar mission to the head-quarters of Ibrahim Pasha, and had met with Major Wilbraham at El-Khalil.

In order to satisfy ourselves of the good faith of the Egyptian Generals, and at the same time to afford them every possible assurance that the retreat of their army should be protected and favoured to the utmost of our power, (some slight distrust having been evinced by them in consequence of a movement of the Turkish troops at El-Khalil,) Captain Houston Stewart, accompanied by Lieutenant Loring, Colonel Rose, and Rechid Pasha, (Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson of the Royal Engineers having been also sent there two days previously, to place himself in communication with the commanding officer of the Egyptian force,) proceeded on the 25th to Gaza, and arrived there early on that day. They were at the same time to urge the speedy evacuation of that place, and the retirement on the Egyptian frontier of the troops which were daily arriving. I also instructed Colonel Rose, as soon as he should be provided with a sufficient Turkish escort, (taking with him an Egyptian officer of rank,) to proceed on the route by which Ibrahim Pasha would most probably approach Gaza, and secure him as far as possible from any act of aggression on the part of the Bedouin Arabs, and other irregular troops. I conceive it now to be my duty to mention to your Excellency, that notwithstanding Brigadier-General Michell and Captain Stewart, in their interviews with the Seraskier and Council after the receipt of the Convention, were under the full impression that all hostile movements would be forbidden, and that the retirement of the Egyptian troops would be permitted in all sincerity and good faith, it was ascertained by Captain Stewart in the course of a subsequent conversation with Rechid Pasha, that secret orders had been sent to General Jochmus to act upon Ibrahim Pasha's line of march, and impede it as much as possible, abstaining at the same time from any direct attack.

The large force, however, concentrated at Gaza, had in the mean time considerably influenced Rechid Pasha, and he returned forthwith to Jaffa, arriving here on the 25th. On meeting me, (being of course aware that Captain Stewart had communicated to me his discovery of the secret orders which had been issued,) Rechid Pasha immediately put into my hands the very letter, as he assured me, which he had addressed to General Jochmus, but which he found had not been sent. I strongly protested in the Council at the course which had been adopted, and pointed out how surely the honour of the British name and of the Turkish cause would have been compromised thereby, as being so directly at variance with the assurances which Captain Stewart, Colonel Rose, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson had made to the Egyptian Generals; and I then received the most positive assurances that no hostile movement should be made, and that every possible assistance should be given to the Egyptians.

I have no doubt, however, that the order in question was given under the impression that Ibrahim Pasha's army had been almost entirely destroyed in the Desert, or was at all events in a completely disorganized state, knowing as we do that instructions had been received from Constantinople, directing that in such case Ibrahim Pasha should be compelled to give up his guns and arms.

I also objected to certain movements of the Turkish troops, which, although not suggested with any hostile intention, might yet, I conceived, have induced suspicion and mistrust on the part of the Egyptians.

To dissipate all feeling of the nature, and personally to reiterate assurances of their anxiety to assist and favour the retreat of the Egyptian army, Rechid Pasha returned on the 25th to Gaza. On the 29th of January I received from Captain Stewart and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, a Note (of which a copy is inclosed,) which had passed between them and Ahmed Pasha and the other Egyptian Generals. Sub-Inclosures 17 is the partial affirmation of this document by the Seraskier, Lieutenant-General Jochmus, and the Moustechar Effendi; and Sub-Inclosure 18 is the copy of my letter to Lieutenant Colonel Alderson, transmitting it to him.

Major Wilbraham and his companions ceased not in the meantime to prosecute their search, and were twenty-four hours in the desert without water: all their exertions were however fruitless, and it was not until the 31st of January, that Colonel Rose (in consequence of information obtained from some deserters of Ibrahim Pasha's column) was enabled to ascertain his exact line of march. On the morning of that day, he came up with Ibrahim Pasha about twenty miles from Gaza, on the route from the southern extremity of the Dead Sea, and having delivered to him a copy of Mehemet Ali's instructions on the evacuation of Syria, accompanied him to Gaza.

This morning Colonel Rose, and a few hours afterwards Captain Stewart, returned to Jaffa, and the former officer has placed in my hands the inclosed translated copy of a Note addressed to the Seraskier by Ibrahim Pasha, with which the Seraskier has expressed himself as satisfied.

From the report I have received, it would appear that the Egyptian force which has reached Gaza, amounted to about 15,000 infantry, and 6,000 or 7,000 cavalry. Of the latter, six regiments of regular cavalry, which may amount to about 2,400 men, and 1,200 irregular cavalry have proceeded to El-Arish; and prior to Captain Stewart's arrival at Gaza, 2,000 infantry are stated to have retired in a similar direction.

He is decidedly of opinion that the evacuation will take place without any unnecessary delay, and that within a fortnight, not an armed Egyptian will be left in Syria. Whilst the wind however remains in its present quarter, it will be impossible either to land the biscuit which the troops will require for their homeward march, or to embark the women, the sick, and the wounded.

Colonel Rose having had some personal communication with Ibrahim Pasha, and being enabled to afford your Excellency any further information, I have directed him to proceed in Her Majesty's Steam Vessel Vesuvius as the bearer of this despatch, and to proceed from Marmorice to Constantinople. I purpose proceeding to Gaza on the 5th instant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN.
Colonel Commanding.

Sub-Inclosure 15 in No. 174.

Guarantee by Menikli Pasha, and the other Chief Officers of the Egyptian Army, at present encamped near Gaza.

Gaza, January 28, 1841.

WE, the Undersigned, being assembled in council with Commodore Houston Stewart, Royal British Navy, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, Royal Engineers, after the discussion which has taken place, have pledged ourselves, that His Highness Ibrahim Pasha will, on his arrival at Gaza, execute the orders of His Highness Mehemet Ali, the Viceroy of

Egypt, for the evacuation of Syria, and that he will not make any movement whatever against those orders, for all of which we give our signatures and affix our seals.

(Signed)

(L.S.)

AHMED MENIKLI,
General of Division.
KOURCHID,
General of Division.
SELIM,
General of Division.
AHMED DRAMALY,
General of Division.
ISHMAEL,
General of Brigade.
IBRAHIM,
General of Brigade.
MAHMOUD BEY,
Captain of the Navy.

Sub-Inclosure 16 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart and Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson to Menikli Ahmed Pasha and the other Chief Officers of the Egyptian Army at present encamped near Gaza.

Gaza, January 28, 1841.

IN consequence of the written guarantee which you have now given, as making yourself responsible that his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha, as well as yourselves, will implicitly obey, and forthwith carry into effect with perfect good faith, the orders of his Excellency Mehemet Ali Pasha for the evacuation of Syria by the whole of the Egyptian Army: we, Houston Stewart, Captain of Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Benbow," and Senior Naval Officer on the coast of Syria, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Carr Alderson, Royal Engineers, representing here the united forces of Great Britain, do pledge ourselves that no molestation nor any obstacle be put in the way of such evacuation, and that you are perfectly safe in diminishing your forces here as fast as possible; and, further, that provided you continue to make that diminution to the satisfaction of the said Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, we promise to insist with his Excellency the Seraskier, Zacharias Pasha, Commanding in Chief the Ottoman forces, that no advance shall be made by the Turkish troops now at Megdill, nor Governor be sent to Gaza until Colonel Alderson shall have reported the evacuation complete; and we promise, that if the Turkish authorities refuse to ratify and accept any one of these conditions, we will immediately, and in perfect honourable faith, give you notice thereof.

(Signed)

HOUSTON STEWART.
R. C. ALDERSON.

Sub-Inclosure 17 in No. 174.

Guarantee by the Seraskier, the Moustechar Effendi, and Lieutenant-General Jochmus.

WE, the Undersigned, upon the received declaration of his Excellency Menikli Ahmed Pasha and the other Egyptian Generals and Officers, to carry forthwith into execution the entire evacuation of Syria and the Desert, consent and promise faithfully to abstain from any hostile movement, according to the promise given by Commodore Stewart and Colonel Alderson, with the proviso that the forces at present near and at Gaza march on El-Arish within seven days from this, embarking such men in

transports as are sick, unfit for campaign, and unable to march according to Colonel Alderson's judgment, and provided no movement is made by any Egyptian force at Gaza, east or northward.

Given under our hand and seal at the Imperial Head-Quarters of Jaffa, January 30, 1841.

(L.S.) MOUSTECHAR EFFENDI, *Seraskier*.
JOCHMUS, *Lieutenant-General*.

Sub-Inclosure 18 in No. 174.

Colonel Bridgeman to Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson.

Sir,

*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
January 31, 1841, 3 o'Clock, P.M.*

YOUR letter of the 28th instant, inclosing the documents which Captain Stewart and yourself have executed with the General and other Officers of the Egyptian army, in which mutual assurances and pledges of good faith in the execution of the Convention are exchanged, was received by me yesterday evening soon after seven o'clock.

I most fully concur therein, and have lost no time in communicating with the Seraskier. From ten o'clock this evening until this hour, I have been occupied in discussions and deliberations. The Seraskier Pasha, Jochmus Pasha, Houssein Pasha, the Moustechar Effendi, and Eyub Pasha, assisted at the Council, and the result thereof is appended by them to the Official Note which is inclosed.

They all profess most earnestly their sincere wish and desire to carry through the Convention in all sincerity and good faith, and most positively assure me, that no hostile movement or oppression shall be made on their part.

Two regiments of cavalry are ordered to Ashdod as a connecting link between this place and Megdill; it had been their intention to send four regiments there, especially, as they assured me, to enable them to provide forage for their horses; but on my urgent request that only two regiments (to which I had previously assented) should be sent, the two extra regiments will be withheld.

You will observe by the inclosed Note signed by the Seraskier Pasha, Jochmus Pasha, and the Moustechar Effendi, that they fix seven days for the total evacuation of Gaza by the troops now there. Similar indulgence will be extended to any other force which may arrive, either under Ibrahim Pasha or other officers' command. It will, therefore, be desirable that you should obtain from Ahmed Pasha and the other officers a written promise to carry the evacuation of Gaza and of the Sultan's dominion into effect within that period; it would appear that ample time is thus given, as seven regiments of cavalry will already have proceeded to El-Arish. As regards the embarkation of the Egyptian infantry at Gaza, I have strongly urged it as a more immediate and speedy means of relieving the country from their presence; but their orders from Constantinople on this head, they say, are imperative, and they cannot assent to it; at the same time they are willing to give the most liberal construction to the embarking of sick, and, therefore, any of the infantry who may, in your opinion, be unfit to proceed by land, you are empowered to embark in the transports now at Gaza. It would be very desirable that the numerical force of combatants should be ascertained, and that a Note should be made of such infantry as from physical causes you consider proper subjects to be transported by sea. By thus embarking every infantry soldier who may not be fit to march, and who could, therefore, delay the immediate retirement of that force, you will, I trust, be enabled to effect the evacuation of the Sultan's territory within the stipulated time. I would beg that in tendering my respects to Ahmed Pasha, you will assure him that I am perfectly convinced of the good faith of the

Turkish authorities, and that I shall not fail to watch over and secure, to the utmost of my power, the safety of the last man who may be left in Syria.

(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel Commanding.

Sub-Inclosure 19 in No. 174.

Ibrahim Pasha to the Seraskier.

(Translation.)

Your Highness,

I AM going from Syria for Egypt. Your letter has reached me; the Egyptian troops are concentrating in Gaza, and when they have their necessary supplies, they will go immediately according to your wishes.

I have written this to you in a friendly manner and have sent it to Your Highness.

(Signed) IBRAHIM.

Sub-Inclosure 20 in No. 174.

Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.

*Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, February 4, 1841.*

Sir,

IN my letter to you of the 23rd of January, I informed you of the arrival of Ibrahim Pasha, at Gaza, which I find was a mistake; he marched with the rear-guard, and arrived at Gaza on the 31st.

I received a private letter from Captain Stewart, dated the 25th of January, informing me that he was very apprehensive that the Turkish authorities would seize any opportunity to bring on a collision between the Turks and Egyptians, and in fact they had advanced, and skirmished with the outposts, and then made rather a precipitate retreat.

I inclose copies of the letters I wrote to Captain Stewart, General Jochmus, and Colonel Bridgeman.

Yesterday, I again heard from Captain Stewart, announcing the arrival of Ibrahim Pasha at Gaza, and his intention of immediately retiring into Egypt; he had collected at Gaza 25,000 men, including about 6,000 cavalry, in good order. This formidable force will, I have no doubt, keep the Turks quiet.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 21 in No. 174.

Commodore Napier to Captain Houston Stewart.

*Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, February 2, 1841.*

Sir,

I BEG to inclose you the copy of a Convention entered into by myself and the Egyptian Government, which Convention has been approved of by the British Government and the Allies, and I have been sent by Sir Robert Stopford to carry it into execution.

I have authorised His Highness the Pasha to send frigates or transports to Gaza, to embark any part of the Egyptian army he thinks fit, and it is my directions that you afford them every facility in your power to accomplish this, as well as to facilitate their retreat by land.

You will call upon the Turkish authorities to support you in this, and should you find any impediment thrown in the way, you will, in the name of the Allied Powers, protest against it, in the most solemn manner, as contrary to the existing treaties, as contrary to the custom of civilized nations, as contrary to the laws of humanity, and contrary even to the interests of the Porte.

The Syrian troops are not to be embarked against their own free will, but if you have any suspicion that General Jochmus will use them against the Egyptians, they had better be disarmed, or even allowed to go into Egypt, in fact do anything to avoid a collision.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

P.S.—I have written this to avoid any misunderstanding, though my letter of the 11th of January, delivered to you by Lieutenant Loring, appears sufficiently explicit. The "Stromboli" is to be sent back immediately.

Sub-Inclosure 22 in No. 174.

Commodore Napier to Colonel Bridgeman.

Sir,

Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, February 2, 1841.

CAPTAIN STEWART will show you the Convention entered into between the Egyptian Government and myself. I have written to him on the subject, and I consider it my duty to call upon you, in your quality of Commander of the British forces in Syria, to do everything in your power to prevent any collision between the Egyptian armies.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 23 in No. 174.

Commodore Napier to General Jochmus.

Sir,

Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, February 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour of inclosing you a copy of a Convention entered into by myself and the Egyptian Government, which has been approved by the Allies, and I have been sent to see it carried into execution.

I send you this Convention, because I understand the Turkish authorities (notwithstanding my letter to you of the 11th of January, sent by Lieutenant Loring) have put difficulties in the way of carrying it into execution, and have even meditated an attack on the Egyptian army.

I have authorized Mehemet Ali to send frigates or transports to Gaza, to embark any portion of the Egyptian army he sees fit, and I have directed Captain Stewart to give them every facility, and I call upon your Excellency, in the name of the Allied Powers, to desist from any hostile measures.

Relative to the question of the Syrians, I have directed Captain Stewart not to embark them against their will.

Should the Turkish authorities (at the head of which, I believe, you are) impede in any way the return of the Egyptian army, I have directed Captain Stewart, in the name of the Allies, to protest against it in the

most solemn manner, as contrary to the custom of civilized nations, as contrary to the existing treaties, as contrary to the laws of humanity, and contrary even to the interests of the Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 24 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart to Hussein Pasha Effendi.

British Head Quarters,
Jaffa, February 6, 1841.

Excellency,

I HAVE just been informed that your Excellency has sent a handsome sabre to my quarters. I beg to assure your Excellency of the grateful sense I entertain of the honour and compliment intended, but at the same time most respectfully to inform your Excellency, that the regulations of our service strictly prohibit its officers from accepting any presents from a Foreign Government, unless such present be transmitted through the Admiral Commanding in Chief, and be accompanied by his sanction.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain of Her Majesty's Ship "Benbow,"
and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 25 in No. 174.

Colonel Bridgeman to Admiral Stopford.

British Head Quarters,
Jaffa, February 16, 1841.

Sir,

CAPTAIN HENDERSON, of Her Majesty's steam vessel "Vesuvius," having left Jaffa this day with a detachment of the Royal Artillery, for Beyrout, and his return to the coast of Syria being, I believe, uncertain, may I be permitted to express to your Excellency how extremely indebted I am (as commanding the British forces in this country) to him for the extreme kindness, zeal, and activity which he has at all times evinced, whilst employed in the conveyance of officers and men, to and from various parts of the coast. It is impossible to say how very much indebted we all are to him for his personal kindness and attention; and in bearing testimony to the manner in which he has carried on, and on every occasion expedited, the public service, I am only venturing to make known to your Excellency those sentiments which the late Brigadier-General Michell would, I well know, have felt it his most pleasing duty to express.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel commanding the British
Forces in Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 26 in No. 174.

*Army of Southern Syria.*His Excellency Ahmed Zacharias Pasha,
Seraskier of Syria, Governor-General.His Excellency Sir Robert Stopford, G.C.B.,
Commander-in-chief by sea and land.His Excellency Lieutenant-General Jochmus Pasha,
Commanding the Army of Operations.His Excellency Lieutenant-General Mehemed Rechid Pasha,
Chief of the General Staff.His Excellency Lieutenant-General Selim Pasha,
Commanding the 1st Division.

Chalid Pasha, commanding 1st Brigade.

Ali Pasha, commanding 2nd Brigade.

Omer Pasha, General of Brigade on the Staff.

His Excellency Lieut.-General Hassan Pasha,
Commanding 2nd Division.

Ismael Pasha, commanding 1st Brigade.

Emir Pasha, commanding 2nd Brigade.

Riza Pasha, commanding the Regular and
Irregular Cavalry.His Excellency Prince Kasim, Emir Bechir,
Commanding the Irregular Forces.*Regular Forces.*

	Men.
Corps of Operation	15,000
Garrison of Acre	3,000
Garrisons of Saida and Beyrout	1,000
Cavalry—Lancers	150
Tartars	450
Field Artillery, 30 pieces	500
	20,100

Irregular Forces and Levies.

	Infantry.	Cavalry.
Troops of the Emir Bechir	3,000	500
Emirs of Hasbeya and Raschega	1,000	200
Other Chieftains, excluding Naplouse	6,000	1,500
	10,000	2,200

British Marines and Artillery at Acre and
Jaffa

Austrian Marines at Beyrout

Djenin, January 5, 1841.

Sub-Inclosure 27 in No. 174.

*Egyptian Army in Syria.*His Excellency Ibrahim Pasha,
Commander-in-Chief.His Excellency Lieut.-General Solymán Pasha,
Chief of the General Staff.His Excellency Lieut.-General Kourschid Pasha,
Commanding a Division.Major-General Ahmed Pasha Decamanli,
Commanding the Cavalry.His Excellency Lt.-Gen. Ahmed Menikli Pasha,
Commanding a Division.His Excellency Lieut.-General Osman Pasha,
Commanding a Division.Major-General Hassan Pasha,
Commanding a Brigade of Light Troops.*Return of Forces on the 29th December, 1840, on leaving the Camp at Damascus.*

REMARKS.	Infantry.	Artillery.	Cavalry.	Irregular Troops.		Annadi Horse.
				Albanian Infantry.	Turkish Horse.	
Loss from Dec. 29, 1840, to Jan. 3, 1841.	22,000	2,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	7,000	1,000	None.	None.	2,000	None.
Forces present at El-Mezerib	15,000	1,000	5,000	2,000	None.	2,000

Djenin, January 5, 1841.

Sub-Inclosure 28 in No. 174.

*General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.**Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
January 13, 1841.*

Sir,

INTRUSTED by the Imperial Firman of the end of the Ramazan with the operations of the army since the 16th of December, I immediately resolved to assume the offensive against Ibrahim Pasha, who had concentrated his forces at Damascus, since the end of November, reduced, however, from 20,000 to 24,000 regular infantry, 5,000 to 6,000 regular cavalry, 150 or more pieces of partly disorganized artillery, besides 4,000 irregular Koordish and Annadi horse, and as many Albanians and other irregular infantry.

The Turkish and Allied forces consisted at that period of 15,000 infantry, and 150 cavalry, and 30 pieces of artillery, exclusive of the garrison of Acre, which, reduced to four battalions and a detachment of British marines, was destined to remain at that point. The Emir Bechir maintained still in pay a corps of 3,000 mountaineers, infantry, and 500 cavalry.

Such was the strength of the forces when, after the necessary preliminary arrangements, I transferred my head-quarters from Beyrout to Hasbeya, where I arrived on the 22nd of December, and without loss of time, ordered the *levée en masse* of the population of Lebanon, and of the whole of Syria south of the line of Beyrout, Balbeck, and Damascus, including the warlike tribes of the Haouran. I had sent my Aide-de-Camp, Captain De L'Or, to direct the operations against Damascus, and Count Szechenyi of the Austrian service, to command the Bedouin tribes on the left bank of the Jordan, south of the Lake of Tiberias. Both these officers executed the arduous and perilous tasks with brilliant courage and devotion.

From the best and most authentic information that could be obtained, it was evident that Ibrahim Pasha, towards the latter part of the month of December, had resolved to maintain himself as long as possible in Damascus, in hopes of a speedy settlement of the Egyptian Question, and a pacific arrangement that might enable him to withdraw his shattered forces from Syria.

The fact of the "Carysfort" frigate being in the harbour of Alexandria, and the nature of the news from Europe which Ibrahim Pasha obtained from friendly agents in Beyrout, Sidon, and other sea-ports, afforded him unquestionably strong reasons to hold out to the last. On the other hand, should circumstances force him to retire (since violent remonstrances, visited on their authors in some instances by capital punishment, had been addressed by many or most of his officers against the retreat through the Desert), the Pasha had resolved to march by El-Mezerib, the bridge of Maajuma on the Jordan, Djenin, Ramla, and Gaza to El-Arish.

The most positive and well-corroborated news had been obtained on this head from Damascus, and the fact was placed beyond a doubt when Mehemet Ali had obtained not only the authority from the British naval Commander-in-Chief to embark the sick, wounded, and women (who alone amount to upwards of 10,000), at or near Gaza; but had actually sent from El-Arish a cavalry division of 3,000 men, who encamped on the borders of the Desert, three quarters of an hour south of Gaza.

Under such circumstances, I considered it a most positive duty on my part to defeat the intention of the Egyptian Commander; first, by obliging him to quit Damascus, and secondly, by forcing him to take the route of the Desert; for if a Convention had actually been signed while Ibrahim Pasha remained at Damascus, the military question remained undecided, and the complete conquest of Syria by the Allied arms could be denied upon the ground of our supposed inability of driving a much superior force from its capital; while, if the Egyptian army made forcibly

its way through Palestine on El-Arish, its losses and sufferings would be small, the country being rich in every resource, and large Government stores existing still at Safed, Teberib, Ramla, and Gaza.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency annexed the plan of operations contained in my secret despatch to Lieutenant-General Selim Pasha, Governor of St. Jean d'Acre, then Kaimakam of Syria, in the absence of his Excellency the Seraskier Zacharias Pasha, who was still in the north of Syria.

Your Excellency will perceive that the general outline of this plan was to concentrate the whole of the regular forces towards the defiles formed by Mount Carmel and the mountains of Jordan. He for a second time returned to Kerek, having lost his guns, ammunition, and stores during the continued and very harassing attacks day and night of the Arab bands intent on plunder.

My last reports from El-Chalil of the 28th of January (twenty-two days after Ibrahim's leaving El-Mezerib, and thirty-one after his retreat from Damascus) state that Hamid Bey, despairing of communicating with Ibrahim Pasha, had resolved to return to Gaza, and thence to Egypt.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General commanding the Army of Operations.

P.S.—Annexed is a report from Mehemed Rechid Pasha, also from Riza Pasha.

Sub-Inclosure 29 in No. 174.

Lieutenant-General Jochmus to Lieutenant-General Selim Pasha.

(Most Secret.)

Sir,

*Hasbeya, Zilkade 1, 1266,
December 25, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have directed the Emir Bechir Kasim, Emir Standyar of Balbeck, Ahmed Aga-el-Jussuf, and the Emir of the Rasbeya and Hasbeya to follow Ibrahim Pasha with their cavalry and infantry, the moment he leaves Damascus; I have also written this order to Sheik Mahmoud of the Haouran, and to the Bedouin Sheiks of Kusa, Adjelun, Essyatt, and others. These latter will come to Elekizerib and Feik; the moment Ibrahim tries to pass Dejsr Madjuma, all these light troops will continually attack and harass the Egyptian army by day and by night, and in this way they will create great disorder, and give occasion to the soldiers to desert, and to the muleteers to escape with their mules and camels, and leave Ibrahim without means to transport his guns and provisions. I beg now that your Excellency will give similar orders immediately in your Pashalic to the same effect, and order Seid Abdul Ali to collect all his people at Djesr Jakub, the castle of Safed and Djesr Madjuma. Your Excellency will hereby see how necessary it is to send to Safed the four guns of Seid Abdul Ali, and the 100 boxes of ammunition, and 2,500 flints, and 2,000 okes of rice from Acre, together with 10,000 okes of biscuit, if the 20,000 okes are arrived from Beyrout.

It is also very important that your Excellency orders immediately the people of Belled Harté and those of Djebel Nablous to be ready to fall upon Ibrahim Pasha, when he passes by the road from Djesr Madjuma to Djenin and Kakim: as your Excellency has received many muskets, these may all or partly be distributed to the people of Djebel Nablous, and other warlike tribes near them, together with ammunition and flints; but I think it best only to do this when Ibrahim has actually left Damascus, and not before.

With all these people following and harassing Ibrahim, we may hope to do him great injury; and in the meantime, we shall assemble all the regular troops near Acre, and march by Mount Carmel towards Djenin,

and defeat the enemy in a general action in the defiles, where his cavalry is of no use, and where we shall have all the mountaineers, besides our regular infantry and artillery.

But before this, I shall come to Acre and concert everything with your Excellency, and we shall go together and fight another action like that of Kalat Maidan, and, please God, the Sultan's standard shall be victorious.

I have written this to your Excellency in the greatest confidence.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General.

Sub-Inclosure 30 in No. 174.

Mehemed Rechid Pasha to General Jochmus.

Mon Général,

*Jerusalem, le 25 Zilkade, 1266,
17 Janvier, 1841.*

J'ARRIVE à l'instant de Reyha, où j'étais pour m'assurer moi-même de ce qui se passait; en effet, Ibrahim y était hier au soir, et il était arrivé le Jeudi; il en est reparti le Vendredi à midi, 15 Janvier. J'ai vu à Reyha les bivouacs de l'ennemi. Le village a été brûlé entièrement. J'ai vu plusieurs déserteurs, qui disent qu'Ibrahim avait sous ses ordres les 1er et 2e régiment de sa garde, et un peu de cavalerie, et ses Gardes de Corps (Cehie honigi). Les troupes ennemies n'ont ni canons, ni munitions de guerre, ni des provisions de bouche.

Je ne puis pas me rendre compte de ces mouvements de l'ennemi. J'ai réuni les officiers supérieurs chez Hassan Pacha, où nous avons fait venir quelques gens du pays qui connaissent les routes de Mecque, de Halil, de Gaza, et de Maan. Alors, tant pour protéger Gaza que Halil, où il se trouvent beaucoup de provisions, nous nous sommes décidés de nous rendre à Halil demain de bon matin avec huit bataillons et les douze pièces de canon. Si l'ennemi veut montrer sa figure, nous tâcherons de lui apprendre de ne pas perdre une seconde fois sa route. Je vous ferai savoir aussitôt que possible, s'il y a d'autres nouvelles.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) MEHEMED RECHID.

Sub-Inclosure 31 in No. 174.

Report of the Riza Pasha (Commanding the Cavalry) at Jericho, to his Excellency Lieutenant-General Hassan Pasha, at Jerusalem.

(Translation.)

*Jericho, Zilkade 27, 1266,
January 22, 1841.*

ON Thursday, 22d Zilkade, (14th January, 1841), Ibrahim Pasha arrived at Richa (Jericho), and called the old Sheik Solyman to him, wanting from him barley, telling him, "If you find what I want, you will be safe; but if you do not, I shall cut off your head." For this reason, the poor old Sheik showed him one or two wells full of barley, which Ibrahim took and distributed to his troops. After this, he set the town on fire, taking the sheep and other animals from the town and neighbourhood. Ibrahim remained there that night, and sent towards Jerusalem about 100 horsemen, but on the road, these were informed that there were four or five Pashas with a large body of troops at Jerusalem. Upon hearing this news, the horsemen went back and informed Ibrahim that it was impossible to advance, and that if they did so, they would be cut to pieces. Hereupon, he ordered all his troops to recross the river (Jordan), but while they were passing, the Arabs fell upon them, and many men were killed or drowned in the river; and most of the troops which got across, dispersed in the direction of the Damascus road, and Ibrahim, with the

remainder, went to Gerek; but on the road he lost all his infantry, and arrived at Gerek with only cavalry. Ibrahim Pasha left some guns at Es-Salt.

A true Translation.
(Signed) TAHIR BEY.

Sub-Inclosure 32 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

Sir, Jaffa, January 20, 1841, 9 o'Clock P.M.

I HAVE this instant received from my Aide-de-camp Baron Dumont, the important news that the expedition of a corps of our light troops under his command, which left Jerusalem on the 9th instant, for Maan, has completely succeeded. Ibrahim Pasha, thinking his depôt deep in the desert, completely safe, neglected to keep a sufficient garrison in the castle, which was only defended by four guns and a few men. Baron Dumont, after six forced marches, arrived at 10 o'clock P.M., on the 14th of January, near the place, and surprised it the next morning, just after the first column of Ibrahim's troops had left it for Suez, and after inducing the people to evacuate the town, burnt the five large magazines which contained Ibrahim Pasha's stores. The column which left Maan for Suez is chiefly composed of all the women, servants, &c., &c., with some troops of escort. The army itself, of which the 2d column was to sleep at Maan, on the 14th, seeing its provisions burnt, had been obliged to countermarch, and is now wandering in the desert, harassed on all sides by the Bedouin tribes. Its state seems to be dreadful, and all over the country through which the Baron Dumont came back to Kerek, he saw the dead bodies of small detachments which had been cut off by the Bedouins.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
*Lieutenant-General commanding the
Army of Operations.*

Sub-Inclosure 33 in No. 174.

Baron Dumont's Report to General Jochmus of the Operations against Maan.

(Translation.) Bivouac, Mountains between Kerek-el-Schoback and Maan,
(Extract.) January 16, 1841,—8 o'Clock A.M.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, that according to your orders, I left Jerusalem on the 9th instant, accompanied by Sheik Abdul Bahman, Habil Cherif, and Hadji Hasiz Bey, the son of the Governor of Jerusalem, with an escort of fifteen Arab horsemen.

By five forced marches, of fifteen to eighteen hours per diem, I arrived near Maan, on the 14th instant, at 10 o'clock P.M., our detachment being then increased by the Sheik's followers to 220 horsemen. I approached an Egyptian bivouac near Maan, to within 150 paces, there being no piquets, guards, or military precaution, and I found that I had before me the first column of the Egyptian forces, escorting the women, harems, &c., &c. The escort consisted only of Henedy irregular cavalry.

My force not being sufficient to attack, I watched the column till daylight, when it continued its marches by the Suez caravan road, and I entered Maan two hours afterwards. It is a place consisting of about three hundred houses, with chemise of masonry. The magazines were in an old castle, defended by four old iron guns, and twenty Egyptian soldiers. These were killed by my horsemen before I could prevent it, as they were endeavouring to escape. After ordering the towns-people to

quit, and communicating your Excellency's orders and instructions to their Sheik, I saw the town evacuated in the space of twelve hours, surmounting the difficulties by money, and promises of presents. The magazines, five in number, I found to contain on inspection,

150 Camel loads of barley,
50 Ditto ditto prepared wheat.
35 Ditto ditto rice.

They were burnt at 3 o'clock in the night of the 14th, 15th January—the private property and stores of the inhabitants having been by that time removed to the mountains, and nothing left in the town.

I took the direction of Aneyi with Sheik Abdul Rahman, and on the 15th at 7 o'clock, after sunrise, I perceived the second column of the Egyptian army, consisting only of about 1,200 camels, and a greater number of mules and other animals of burden, and an irregular cavalry escort, although I had received positive news that it was conducted by Solyman Pasha, and had with it the artillery. My horsemen had seized forty-four camels that belonged to the first column during the preceding night, and I found forty more dead on the road, or in the bivouac, constituting a loss of eighty-four camels in one single night, by my party alone.

The whole of the Arabs of the Desert are pursuing the Egyptian forces.

Sub-Inclosure 34 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

Head-Quarters, Jerusalem,
January 28, 1841, 8 o'Clock P.M.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to inform your Excellency, in my report of the 17th instant, that in consequence of the official news of the submission of Mehemet Ali, hostilities had ceased on our part from that day, after the arrival of Hamid Bey, the latter having written to the same purpose to the Egyptian General at Gaza, who received and answered his communication on the 18th. No hostilities had been committed since the defeat of the Egyptian cavalry corps on the 15th instant at El-Meshdel, and our cavalry had ever since maintained the positions which it occupied on the 16th, when I advanced it along the course of the Ascalon river.

By my directions a corps of eight battalions of infantry, and twelve pieces of artillery under Lieutenant-General Hassan Pasha, flanked from Jerusalem our movement towards El-Meshdel, observing by light cavalry the roads north and south of the Dead Sea, by which any Egyptian forces might arrive in Gaza.

On the 14th a corps was reported to have crossed the Jordan and bivouacked (near Jericho) at Reyha. Hassan Pasha encamped at Abugosh, three hours south-west of Jerusalem, marched, towards the evening, on the 15th instant; but the Egyptian division hearing of his approach, immediately recrossed the Jordan with a heavy loss in drowned and killed, the waters of that river having risen more than a foot during the incessant rains of the 14th and 15th of January; and the Arabs falling upon the troops during the passage, and in the nearly impracticable marshes of the valley at the head of the Dead Sea.

The enemy's column above-mentioned proved to be the shattered remains of the corps, called by Mehemet Ali "the Guards," amounting to about 4,000 to 5,000 men, and two cavalry regiments with a battery of artillery, forming the rear-guard of the army under the personal command of Ibrahim Pasha. The artillery and one of the regiments (Cuirassiers) had remained at some distance on the left bank of the river,

and the movement was evidently a desperate attempt to march by any way on Gaza or El-Arish.

The forlorn situation of this corps will be seen from the two inclosed reports of Mehemed Rechid Pasha, Chief of the Staff, and of Riza Pasha, commanding the cavalry. I do not estimate the loss of the army so great as the latter, but certainly, after comparing all the reports, it amounts to 1,000 or more men, and eight pieces of artillery, which latter, although with the column at Es-Salt, were unquestionably not at Kerek on the 19th instant, whither Ibrahim had retired after continual skirmishes with the Arabs. The Governor of Jerusalem had sent his son, Hadgi Hasiz, to ascertain whether the artillery has been buried in the desert mountain or not.

Such was the isolated position of this last corps of the Egyptian army, that its Commander-in-Chief had lost all means of communication with his remaining forces, and that, although Hamid Bey and the Commissioners from Egypt were from the 19th to the 23rd at El-Chalil, trying by all means to establish a communication with Ibrahim, either by the north or the south of the Dead Sea, it proved a vain attempt, notwithstanding that, during the same days, the above column under the Pasha was at Kerek, surrounded by the Arabs of the country, who had been reinforced by the tribes of Beni Sackr and Beni Hennedy, arrived from the depth of the desert in consequence of the orders sent them from Jerusalem on the 8th of January, through Baron Dumont.

The distance from El-Mezerib to Kerek is, at the utmost, five days' march. Ibrahim Pasha left the former place on the 6th or 7th of January, and after fifteen days was still at Kerek, having continually marched and counter-marched in the desert mountains in search of food, or from having been stopped in the mountain defiles. According to the statement of the son of the Chieftain of Abugosh, a Captain in the Guards, who deserted on the 21st instant from Kerek, and had been with the column ever since it quitted Damascus and El-Mezerib, Ibrahim marched from the latter place to Bilka, thence back north to Es-Salt, again south to Kerek and back to Jericho; obliged to recross the Jordan of Naplouse by a march along the coast, while all the irregular forces from the Lebanon, &c., &c., moving parallel to the Egyptian army along the right bank of the Jordan and the lakes of Hule and Tabareh, not only covered the magazines at Safed and Tabareh, but were constantly in a position for close observation, covering Syria against large foraging detachments, and remaining at the same time disposable for a concentric movement on the defiles of Djenin, where I calculated to unite 25 battalions with 30 pieces of artillery, and a mountaineer force of from 10,000 to 12,000 men, and to fight decidedly a general action on ground quite impracticable for the enemy's cavalry. It was at the time, and it remains still, my firm conviction, that victory would have crowned the Sultan's arms in a few hours, and that the whole of Ibrahim Pasha's army would have been annihilated or obliged to surrender; the only force of his still in some state like organization, being his cavalry, and this would have been of no use to him in the rocky grounds of Djenin.

The appeal to arms in the Sultan's name was cheerfully followed by the mountaineer population of the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, obeying Prince Kassim Emir Bechir; by the men of Bellad Bascharra and Safed under their Mussellims, Hamid El Bey, Hussein Selman, and Seid Abdul Ali; by the Emirs of Rasbeya and Hasbeya, and the cavalry of Balbeck under the Emirs Handjar, Achmet, and Chalib Arrian.

The powerful house of Abdel-Al, Governors of Naplouse, called to the standards the Mussulman population of their districts, and of Djebel Kuds; and the Bedouin tribes of Kura, Adjelun, and Es-Salt, prepared for booty when the hour for pursuing the enemy should have come, for these latter will not face an armed force, but are terrible to a flying foe.

On the 27th of December the Haouran population appeared already in masses round El-Mezerib, and Kaftan Agassi, the Egyptian Commander of the Hennedy Cavalry and Moghribins, who had occupied that important post to protect the stores, collected there since two months, was obliged to fall back near to Damascus, leaving all the provisions and

forage in the hands of our partisans, who appeared in strong bodies on Ibrahim's last line of communication with Egypt.

Since the 24th of December, the cavalry of Balbeck had thrown back the outposts of Ibrahim Pasha into the very gardens of Damascus, maintaining themselves afterwards at one or two hours from the gates of the town, and thus facilitating the desertion of the enemy. Upwards of 100 officers and 800 men of the regular troops had presented themselves at our outposts up to the 28th of December, many bringing with them both horses and arms, and offering themselves for immediate service in the Imperial army.

Justly alarmed at the imminent danger of his military position in the centre of a general insurrectionary movement, with an army in utter destitution and deserting in all directions; blocked up within the walls of a large and disaffected town, ready for revolt, and with the enemy at its gates; unable at the same time to depend upon his troops, the major part of which might join the inhabitants against their General;—Ibrahim Pasha at last gave way to the force of unlucky circumstances, and, selling the stores he could not carry away, and destroying a great part of his ammunition, he began his retreat on the 29th of December in the afternoon, encamping in the gardens of Damascus, and continued his march on the 30th as far as El Ressone, three hours from the latter city.

On the 31st of December, an advanced guard of 1,000 Druses and 2,000 Balbeck Cavalry entered Damascus, to establish the authority of the Sultan; but the cavalry, in accordance with my positive orders to Captain De l'Or, started soon after to pursue the Egyptians in their route towards Mezerib, where Ibrahim's army arrived on the 2nd and 3rd of January, 1841, after a loss, by desertion, killed, and dead from the cold, of upwards of 10,000 men and 20 guns.

The hail and intense cold caused numerous deaths among the nearly-naked soldiery in summer clothing, and the sword of the fierce and revengeful Haouranees, the victims of Ibrahim's abominable oppression, was unmerciful to small detachments or straggling deserts.

The bivouacs of the Egyptian army and the whole line of march resemble a wide field of battle, from the dead bodies of men and animals, such of the latter as could not keep up being immediately shot, by order of the Pasha.

Ibrahim Pasha's march was followed in a parallel direction by the forces of the Emir Bechir, to whom I had given the Command-in-Chief of all the light troops, and who, parting Al-Elias and Zachle, marched by Merdje Adjun and Safed on Zabarieth, reinforced, at each station to the south, by the different detachments of volunteers, who had been directed to assemble along the banks of the Jordan.

The Balbeck Cavalry having also come to Tabareh from its pursuit of the enemy in the direction of Mezerib, the Emir Bechir found himself on the 4th and 5th of January at the head of 1,000 infantry and 1,500 horse, in and near Tabareh, while the defile of Djenin was occupied by a body of Albanians and Naplousians, supported by a strong force of the latter at six hours' distance at Naplouse, ready to move at a moment's notice.

Nineteen battalions of the regular army having been concentrated at Acre since the 5th of January, marched on that day, and on the 6th, from that place in the direction of Jaffa; and, with the eight battalions already in Palestine at Jerusalem and Ramla, were in position to arrive at Djenin long before the enemy.

My own head-quarters had been transferred successively on the 31st of December from Hasbeya to Safed, thence, on the 3rd, to the Djesr Madjuma, on the 4th to Djenin, on the 5th to Naplouse, and on the 6th to Jerusalem.

Ibrahim Pasha remained three days irresolute at El-Mezerib, reconnoitring Feik and the Jordan; but, informed or calculating on the certainty of a general action, if he persisted in his intended movement on Djenin, he pushed his advanced guard on the 4th on Remsha; thus declaring his movement and indicating that he had changed his plans.

He was followed thither by all his forces and his trains on the 5th and 6th.

On this latter day his rear-guard was attacked in Remsha, by the cavalry of Chalib Arrian, who had gone again over the Jordan from

Tabareh on the 5th instant. On the 7th, a skirmish took place near Djaraseh with the partisans of Count Szechenyi. On the 9th, the rear-guard of Ibrahim, sending out a foraging party, with some artillery, towards Es-Salt, the latter was repulsed in the defiles.

The Egyptian army, fairly launched into the desert, has not since been authentically heard of; when last seen, between the El-Mezerib, Kalat Mefrek, its infantry was reduced to 15,000 disorderly men; its artillery, though still numerous, was utterly disorganised, principally by desertion; infantry soldiers serving the guns; the cavalry alone was in something like discipline.

After four months' campaign, a powerful army of 65,000 regular troops has thus been reduced to scarcely two incomplete divisions. The valour of the Imperial and Allied troops has done much in the conquest of a vast country like Syria in a short period of glory and success; but Providence has evidently visited the sins of tyranny and unparalleled oppression on the heads of Mehemet Ali and Ibrahim Pasha, and has given a new and terrible lesson, that if revolt and armed rebellion against the legitimate Sovereign are events unfortunately frequent in history, they lead finally, but through heavy misfortune, to the wiser order of things, which intrusts the direction of Empires to those in whose hands command has been vested from their birth.

The God of Battle may lead Ibrahim and his shattered forces through the Desert, and bring some troops back to the banks of the Nile. I have taken, as in duty bound, such means as may as much as possible delay his march, or diminish his chances of escape.

On the 6th of January, from Jerusalem, I ordered by twelve firmans the general insurrection of the Bedouin tribes of the Desert, and giving them as a reward all the Miri or Government tithes of produce, collected at Maan, the great central depôt of the Desert, provided they would remove them and others out of the way of Ibrahim Pasha's line of march,—I entrusted the command of this expedition to the Sheik Abdurralunan, the renowned Chief of Djebel Chalil, the personal and for ten years the invincible enemy of Ibrahim Pasha. This expedition of 2,000 Bedouin horse was accompanied by my Aide-de-camp Baron Dumont of the Austrian service, an officer of talent and resolution, and by Hadgi Hasiz Bey, the son of the Governor Osman Aga of Jerusalem.

My next reports will inform your Excellency of the issue of this enterprise.

It is to me an agreeable duty to state to your Excellency the perfect unanimity which has actuated all the officers and men of the Turkish and Allied forces, during these late and extensive operations, which by mere strategic combinations and movements, and with very little loss of life, have produced great and important results; the clear proof of Ibrahim's having lost Syria by mere force of arms, and without negotiations, the salvation of Palestine from pillage and destruction, and finally, the enormous loss of the Egyptian General, only as far as El-Mezerib, since he left Damascus, without calculating those reserved for him by the sufferings of the Desert.

To Brigadier-General Mitchell and Commodore Houston Stewart, of Her Britannic Majesty's service, I have to offer my most grateful acknowledgments for their zealous and active co-operation. To their Excellencies Lieutenants-General Selim and Hassan Pashas, to his Excellency the Moustechar Mahommed Selim Effendi, to Omar Pasha, and to the other General and Field officers of the army, as well as to their gallant and hardy troops, I have to express my sincerest thanks. My Aide-de-camp Captain Bovill has with great activity and intelligence performed the duties of the Quarter-Master-General's department of two divisions. Lieutenant-Colonel Tahir Bey, and Major Herman of Her Majesty's service (attached to my staff), have in the execution of my orders displayed both zeal and ability. But no services could be more essential than those rendered by Mr. Wood, who, with unabating zeal and activity, and with an admirable degree of management, has obtained the prompt execution of my orders to the mountain chiefs, who, accustomed hitherto to the mere surveillance and defence of their special districts,

have for the first time in modern Syrian history been brought to act in perfect accordance for one general and great object, and who have for this purpose, without pay and often without regular rations, gone for many days' marches beyond the frontiers of their proper command; a remarkable and isolated fact due to the personal influence of Mr. Wood, and as much to the devotion displayed by those chiefs to their legitimate master.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,

Lieutenant-General commanding the Army of Operations.

Sub-Inclosure 35 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

*Head Quarters, Jaffa,
January 30, 1841.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency the terms granted by the Ottoman authorities for the entire evacuation of Syria.

Since the arrival of Hamid Bey and the English Commissioner, Lieutenant Loring, Royal Navy, on the 17th instant, it has been deemed advisable, after a general Council held at these head-quarters, to come to the resolution on the part of the Imperial authorities, that no obstacle should be offered to the retreat of any Egyptian force south of the Dead Sea, but that any march north of that lake must be preceded by the surrender of guns and arms, leaving it optional to embark any sick, wounded, and women at Caiffa or Gaza.

In order to impart the due consistency to this resolution, twenty-one battalions of infantry and eighteen pieces of artillery were concentrated at Jerusalem, and 2,000 cavalry at El-Chalil with reserves at Ramla.

I had transferred my own head-quarters to Jerusalem, whence I returned yesterday; Ibrahim Pasha having left Kerek and being far beyond the Dead Sea, but the Arabs of the Desert swarm round him on all sides, and I have not as yet been able to ascertain his present situation.

Hamid Bey, Major Wilbraham, and Selim Bey (the Turkish Commissioner), after fruitless attempts to communicate with the Pasha, have returned to Gaza.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,

Lieutenant-General commanding the Army of Operations.

Sub-Inclosure 36 in No. 174.

[See Sub-Inclosure 17 in No. 174.]

Sub-Inclosure 37 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to the Seraskier Ahmed Zacharias Pasha and Hussein Pasha, President of the Aulic Council.

(Secret.)

Excellences,

Jaffa, le 21 Janvier, 1841.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence, que d'après des nouvelles officielles de mon Aide-de-Camp le Baron Dumont, les magasins d'Ibrahim Pacha à Maan ont été brûlés le 15 Janvier; que l'armée d'Ibrahim est coupée en deux, et en complète déroute, rebroussant chemin; qu'en conséquence ses 150 canons sont déjà véritablement en notre pouvoir; et que sous ces circonstances, et d'après les ordres officielles et secrètes lus au Conseil d'hier, on ne peut permettre à Ibrahim Pacha que le choix des conditions suivantes:—

1. De marcher sur El-Arish par le Sud de la Mer Morte, ou bien sur Suez, avec les hommes, armes, et moyens de transport qu'il possède à présent.

2. De venir en détachments de 3,000 hommes par Gaza sur El-Arish, en laissant en nos mains ses canons, en considérant de la grâce qui lui est accordée de poursuivre ce chemin, pourvu qu'il laisse tous les Syriens dans leur pays.

Il est de la plus urgente nécessité de couvrir toute la Palestine, sans un moment de délai, par toutes nos troupes, pour empêcher qu'on ne saccage et brûle le pays par des partis en désespoir, comme Ibrahim en a donné le funeste exemple il y a peu de jours à Jericho; et s'il veut pénétrer, après nos sommations, par force en Palestine, ce qui n'est nullement probable, il faut repousser l'attaque par les armes, car dans ce cas c'est Ibrahim qui rompit la Convention.

Mr. Wood fera à votre Excellence une déclaration pareille en écrit.

Je ne saurais prendre la responsabilité personnelle d'aucune autre mesure; car elle compromettrait les intérêts les plus chers de Sa Majesté Impériale notre Auguste Maître, et l'honneur de nos belles victoires.

J'ai, &c.,

(Signé) A. JOCHMUS.
Lieutenant-Général.

Sub-Inclosure 38 in No. 174.

Mr. Wood to the Seraskier Zacharias Pasha and Hussein Pasha, President of the Aulic Council.

Excellences,

Ce 21 Janvier, 1841.

D'APRES les dépêches arrivées aujourd'hui d'Alexandrie de son Excellence Mazloum Bey, et dont le Conseil tenu ce matin a eu connaissance, il ne reste aucun doute de l'entière soumission de Méhémet Ali à la volonté de son Auguste Maître le Sultan. Ces dépêches portent que l'évacuation de la Syrie doit s'effectuer sans retard: comme pourtant elles ne prescrivent que les moyens d'embarquer les femmes, les malades, &c., des échelles de la Syrie, la conclusion est claire, qu'Ibrahim Pacha et son armée doivent se pourvoir d'autres moyens pour se retirer. Les lettres du Commodore Napier au Général Michell, ainsi qu'à M. le Capitaine Stewart, ne prescrivent non plus aucune autre manière pour l'évacuation de la Syrie par la masse de l'armée ennemie.

Or, il me semble qu'il est bien entendu qu'Ibrahim Pacha doit rentrer en Egypte par le Désert ou bien en prenant le chemin d'El-Arish, qui est la voie la plus directe, et celle qui lui offre les plus grandes facilités pour sa retraite. En lui laissant donc cette route libre, nous nous conformons au désir de Mazloum Bey et du Commodore d'offrir à l'ennemi toutes les facilités pour sa retraite sans pourtant compromettre notre position militaire. Mazloum Bey nous dit clairement, qu'à son départ de Constantinople l'impression était que l'armée ennemie était complètement désorganisée, et que par conséquent très-faible, mais qu'à son arrivée à Alexandrie le Commodore Napier a voulu le détromper sur la faiblesse de l'Armée Egyptienne, qu'il prétendait d'être nombreuse, pourvue de tous les nécessaires, et en état d'offrir de la résistance à l'armée Impériale; et par conséquent ses rapports sur cette armée étaient si contraires les uns aux autres, qu'il n'a pas hasardé dans l'incertitude d'insister auprès de Méhémet Ali sur l'exécution de ces deux articles suivants des instructions secrètes de la Porte:—1°. Qu'il soit permis à tous les conscrits Syriens de rentrer dans leurs foyers avec leurs armes: 2°. Qu'il ne soit permis aux débris de l'armée ennemie de se retirer de la Syrie, qu'après avoir rendus leurs armes, canons, et matériel de guerre; et que par conséquent, comme nous étions sur les lieux mêmes, nous pouvions être les meilleurs juges de l'état de l'ennemi, et si nous devions ou non insister auprès d'Ibrahim Pacha sur l'exécution de ces deux conditions.

Sur ce point se sont survenues de longues discussions basées sur

l'opinion personnelle de chaque membre du Conseil selon les idées de l'état de l'ennemi, et comme nous n'en avions pas de renseignements assez positifs pour en former une juste idée, il a été décidé par la majorité du Conseil, pour ne pas entraver les négociations, de permettre à l'ennemi de se retirer sans le faire subir les conditions susdites, quand même qu'il insiste de prendre la route de Gaza.

Les nouvelles positives, cependant, que nous venons de recevoir de la désorganisation complète de l'armée Egyptienne, de leur manque totale de vivres, de sa réduction à un fort petit nombre d'hommes capables d'offrir résistance, de la destruction de Maan par M. Dumont, du passage déjà par le Désert des femmes des bagages, et de la seconde division sous Solyman Pacha, réduite à 5,000 hommes, du mouvement rétrograde d'Ibrahim Pacha avec une poignée d'hommes dépourvus même d'artillerie, par suite de la destruction de Maan, ne nous laissent plus aucun doute de la condition désespérée et de l'anéantissement presque totale de l'ennemi.

N'ayant donc rien à craindre de l'opposition qu'il pourrait nous offrir, il me semble qu'il est de notre devoir de lui imposer ces deux conditions susdites, au moins celle qui regarde les conscrits Syriens, en lui offrant cet alternatif: ou de rentrer en Egypte par le Désert; ou bien, dans le cas qu'il est trop faible d'hasarder sa retraite par la voie ci-dessus indiquée, et qu'il demande la permission de venir à Gaza, qu'elle ne lui soit pas accordée sans qu'il se conforme aux deux conditions susdites. Cela serait en même temps lui accorder les facilités que Mazloum Bey, ainsi que le Commodore, nous enjoignent de lui donner, en se conformant pourtant de son côté à nos demandes, et aux instructions secrètes de la Porte. Si pourtant Ibrahim Pacha persiste de venir à Gaza sans se soumettre à ces conditions, l'agression venant de son côté, il doit bien en être responsable, et en subir les conséquences.

Voilà, Excellences, ma faible opinion, que j'ose soumettre à votre considération; elle a été formée après des mûres réflexions, car je ne puis pas cacher de moi-même, et je manquerais à mon devoir, si je ne vous faisais part du grand danger que je vois à l'introduction de l'ennemi à Gaza, où, ayant ses communications libres avec l'Egypte, il pourrait bien recruter son armée, et s'y maintenir dans une position menaçante pour aider son père de traiter plus avantageusement pour lui-même. Car sa conduite passée ne nous permet pas de compter trop sur ses paroles. Maintenant, même tandis qu'il a envoyé Hamid Bey à son fils avec ordre d'évacuer la Syrie, son Général à Gaza nous dit d'avoir des instructions de ne pas nous attaquer, mais de ne nous livrer Gaza qu'avec sa vie, malgré que cette ville est une des plus importantes en Syrie. C'est de pareils faits que vos Excellences pourraient juger de la mauvaise foi du vassal, qui se refuse de rendre ses armes à la demande de son Souverain, ce qui rend sa soumission incomplète et même équivoque.

Veillez, &c.,

(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

Sub-Inclosure 39 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to the Seraskier Ahmed Zacharias Pasha.

Excellence,

Quartier Général de Jérusalem,
22 Janvier, 1841,
11 A.M.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que je suis arrivée ici hier au soir. Le Lieutenant-Général Hassan Pacha y était retourné également hier de Chalil. Rachman et Sélim Pacha, avec le brigade de Chalid Pacha, y sera aujourd'hui, de manière qu'il se trouvera ce soir réunie à Jérusalem une force de vingt-un bataillons, et dix-huit pièces d'artillerie. La cavalerie de Riza Pacha se réunira aujourd'hui au soir ou demain matin à celle du Murehardson, qui doit être arrivée hier au soir à El-Halil. Les forces, aux points centraux où elles se trouvent, devraient être plus que suffisant pour appuyer nos négociations avec Ibrahim, s'ils auraient eu

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lieu; mais comme celui doit se trouver, d'après les dépositions de toutes les déserteurs, au sud de la Mer Morte, il n'y a plus lieu à négocier. Son armée est en complète déroute, faute de vivres par la prise de Maan, et les déserteurs déposent tous, que même avant d'arriver aux magasins (à présent brûlés), toute l'infanterie subsistait depuis quatre ou six jours de la chair de chameau. J'ai trouvé ici le Baron Dumont, qui me confirme la complète déroute des Egyptiens. Comme il a vu passer les trois premières colonnes à portée de fusil, et que dans la deuxième on devrait se trouver, d'après toutes les informations, l'artillerie, il n'a vu qu'un grand nombre de chameaux et de mulets, on croit ici généralement qu'Ibrahim a enterré ses canons dans le Désert.

De son infanterie on n'a vu que la troisième colonne, réduite à 5,000 hommes; un corps isolé à Jufila de 2,000 hommes, qui se trouvaient il y a quelques jours avec Ibrahim Pacha vers Kerek: tout ce monde était à moitié mort de faim. Les pertes d'Ibrahim en hommes, en chevaux, et en bêtes de somme, en repassant le Jordan, ont été très-fortes. Enfin son Excellence Hassan Pacha, sur une nouvelle de la paix, a envoyé un sauf conduit à Ahmed Menikli Pacha, commandant la Cavalerie Egyptienne, et lui a fait savoir qu'il ne l'attaquerait pas dans sa retraite, pourvu qu'il ne vint pas fourrager dans les villages près de Halil. Ahmed Menikli Pacha, conduit par un officier de Hassan Pacha, a alors choisi la route vers Gaza, dans sa retraite sur l'Egypte. La cavalerie, réduite à 2,500 chevaux et 700 cavaliers démontés, était dans le plus misérable état; et sans la Convention, deux bataillons dans les passes presque impraticables du Vadi-el-Ghir, à une journée au sud de Halil, auraient été suffisant pour arrêter cette colonne. Il me paraît très-nécessaire aux troupes venues vers Gaza de se retirer, afin qu'il ne soit jamais plus de 3,000 hommes à la fois dans cet endroit. Je prie votre Excellence de communiquer cette lettre à M. le Général Michell.

J'ai, &c.,
(Signé) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-Général.

P.S.—Il y a beaucoup d'orge à El-Halil, et on y trouve d'autres provisions, mais il faut y envoyer du riz et du beurre.

Sub-Inclosure 40 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 2, 1841.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to inform your Excellency, in my despatch of the 30th of January, that the Commissioners of England, Turkey, and Egypt not being able up to that day to communicate with Ibrahim Pasha, had returned to Gaza. Omar Pasha and Captain Arbuthnot, Royal Navy, sent on a similar errand, had been equally unsuccessful.

At last, on the 31st of January, intelligence was received at Gaza, that the Egyptian Commander-in-Chief was within a day's march of that place, still pursued by the Arabs, who had not left him a moment's quiet since his defeat near Jericho on the 15th ultimo. On the 31st he entered Gaza with the remains of the guards and some irregular troops to the following amount:—

Three regiments of guards (infantry),	3,500 men.
One regiment of cuirassiers, one ditto lancers,	600 horses.
Irregular infantry,	500 "
Hennedy irregular horse	40 "

This force was in a most deplorable state, having wandered in the mountains of the Desert in search of food for the last seventeen days since their recrossing the Jordan, Ibrahim being away from Damascus thirty-four days. Colonel Rose of Her Britannic Majesty's service, who

went to meet Ibrahim, told me that an oke, or two pounds and three-quarters, of mule or camel's flesh, was sold at thirty to forty piastres, or eight shillings English, and that the Pasha's own horses were without barley the last two days. The three regiments of guards on their leaving Damascus were 8,000 strong, and the two regiments of cavalry 1,200, making a loss of these corps alone, who were the élite of the army, of 4,500 infantry and 600 cavalry.

The different columns which from the 21st to the 25th of January had preceded the arrival of Ibrahim at Gaza were as follows:—Under Ahmed Menikli Pasha, regular cavalry, 2,400; irregular cavalry, 300; under Kourschid Pasha, under Dramanli and others, 11,000 infantry and irregulars, and 600 regular cavalry: which, with 4,640 men arrived under Ibrahim Pasha, and about 3,000 artillery and irregular troops, gone under Solymán and Ismael Pashas to Cairo, escorting the two convoys of artillery, and women, civil employés, and others, form a total of 22,000 men; constituting, in conformity with my previous reports, a loss of 18,000 men and forty-two guns since Ibrahim Pasha left Damascus with 40,000 men and 150 guns.

The inclosed general return will give to your Excellency a complete tableau of the enormous losses of the Egyptian army since the opening of the campaign, amounting to 63,000 men, 619 garrison guns, and 148 field-pieces.

The forces of Mehemet Ali in Syria have always been very much and purposely overrated. I have never estimated his actual army above 75,000 effectives and 10,000 non-effectives, and the losses on the same scale: were it otherwise, the glory of the Sultan's and Allied arms would only be enhanced; for at the opening of the campaign there were in the field, of regular forces about 9,000 men, at the period of the taking of Acre about 16,000 men,—and the army at present in Southern Syria amounting to 18,000 infantry, 3,500 regular cavalry, 3,000 irregular horse, and thirty pieces of field artillery.

The enthusiasm of the gallant Syrian population for their legitimate Sovereign has done the rest.

In the above estimates are not included the 3,200 horse and 600 infantry and artillery forming the division of El-Arish, which arrived and encamped near Gaza during the month of December last.

The sufferings of the remains of Ibrahim Pasha's own army have been dreadful. Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, in his reports from Gaza to Colonel Bridgeman, states that the infantry arriving from the Desert had been seven days nearly without any food, and full three days without water; and the two Turkish Staff Officers who served for three days as safe-guard to the cavalry columns of Ahmed Menikli Pasha, represent his force as in the most exhausted state. The loss of cavalry horses has at least been 2,000. Baron Dumont's prisoners made before the 17th of January, had then already been living for four and six days upon camel's flesh. The number of those who will be embarked at Gaza as *hors du combat* will be very great, and the whole matériel of the army being completely ruined, it cannot in its present state be considered anything but an armed mass, the only force that approaches to order being the cavalry.

The artillery, when last seen by Baron Dumont, after the taking of Maan, was not any longer transported by draught as it was when it left Damascus; but as many guns had been drawn by oxen, cows, and buffaloes, this column found the means of subsistence by killing these animals, and was thus enabled to continue its march by the route of Maan, while the other columns of the army, after the magazines of Maan had been emptied by the Bedouins and the remains burnt, were obliged to countermarch, and come back upon Gaza by isolated tracts, and completely destitute of all military array.

The straight road from Maan to Cairo is about four days, every station having water for the wants of the large pilgrim caravans; the circuit by Gaza and El-Arish is twenty-three days through deserts, one-half of which is destitute of water.

Without the Convention and the arrival of the Commissioners of Peace, the fate of the isolated columns of Ibrahim's army could not have

been doubted, arriving as it did at long intervals, and in isolated columns from each other, at nearly the very head-quarters of the Imperial army, ready to move at a moment's notice.

The final operations of this campaign are marked by two distinct features: after a forced retreat from Damascus, the Egyptian General was compelled at El-Mezerib to abandon his original intention of passing through Palestine to El-Arish, on which line, according to the inclosed return, he would have found 2,797,775 rations for troops, and 271,980 rations of forage.

He was offered battle at Djenin and declined it, preferring the risk of a march through the Desert.

The general insurrection of the Bedouins, and the destruction of the stores at Maan, obliged him a second time to change his route, falling from the caravan road into the heart of the wilderness.

His artillery having gone by the prescribed line of march, the remains of his army, henceforth routed and isolated columns, without array, ammunition, or guns, without reciprocal communications, could have offered no effectual resistance against a general movement of the Turkish army, whose cavalry had come into line from the north, and its choice would have been surrender or starvation in the Desert.

Such are the advantages of strategical combinations over mere fighting, that the effective loss of 18,000 men and the complete disorganization of the Egyptian army has not cost 100 men, *hors du combat*, to its antagonists.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General.

Sub-Inclosure 41 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

*Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
January 17, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, that on the 14th instant I directed a division of ten battalions of infantry, 1,800 irregular and Tartar horse, 150 regular cavalry, and 14 pieces of artillery, to march from Ramla towards Gaza.

This latter village is abandoned by the enemy, who has a flying camp of 1,200 regular and 1,800 irregular horse, with eight pieces of horse artillery, at three quarters of an hour's march south of Gaza, whence he draws his forage and provisions: but ravages, at the same time, the country, carrying off cattle and mules to a great extent from most of the villages south of Ramla.

The object of my movement was the protection of these villages, but principally the destruction of the enemy's provisions at Gaza, in case Ibrahim Pasha, distressed in the Desert, should have struck off south of the Dead Sea towards Gaza.

On the 14th of January the division encamped at Esdued; on the 15th it could only make a march of three hours to El-Mesde on account of the incessant heavy rain, which poured down ever since it left Ramla.

Towards the afternoon, a reconnoitring party of the enemy of 500 horse approached the camp; but the Commanding Officer making a very silly manœuvre was taken in flank and rear by about 400 or 500 of our cavalry, who pursued him for two hours, taking between forty and fifty prisoners, and killing and wounding as many. Our loss was about four killed and twelve wounded.

Hearing nothing positive about Ibrahim's immediate approach, and the low country towards Gaza having become a complete marsh by the continued floods of rain up to the 16th in the evening, and the troops having been completely drenched day and night in the bivouacs, I suspended the movement, and sent the infantry and guns to Jaffa,

advancing, at the same time, the cavalry detachments to the neighbourhood of Ascalon and some villages towards the river of that name, with their head-quarters at El-Mesde, intending to resume the operations the moment the ground had become practicable; but on my arrival here, informed officially of the complete submission of Mehemet Ali Pasha, and the consequent cessation of the state of rebellion of his army, our troops have been ordered to cease offensive hostilities. His Excellency the Seraskier Ahmed Zacharias Pasha, commanded in person since we left Ramla.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General commanding the
Army of Operations.

Sub-Inclosure 42 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart to Admiral Stopford.

*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 2, 1841.*

Sir,

I YESTERDAY received the inclosed official letter from Lieutenant-General Jochmus, which is dated the day after General Michell's death, and professes to be an answer to my letter of the 12th of January, a copy of which I transmitted to you in my despatch of the 17th instant.

It is not my intention to notice this letter in any manner, nor would I have troubled you with it had it not been official and somewhat of a curiosity in its way.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow,"
and Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.

Sub-Inclosure 43 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Captain Houston Stewart.

*Head-Quarters, Jerusalem,
January 25, 1841.*

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive your communication of the 13th only on the 17th instant; and active operations have prevented my answering it before.

It would be perfectly superfluous to enter now into any details on its varied contents, since fortune and victory have declared on all sides for me, by the total rout of the Egyptians, thus consoling me, to a certain degree, for that want of confidence in my judgment which, it is evident, you entertain with respect to my operations in the field. But, unskilful as I may be deemed as a military commander, it must at least be confessed from the recent march of events, that I am certainly a most fortunate one.

I must, however, most distinctly advert to, and refute, two points, upon which a great part of the critical acumen contained in the letter in question, appears to be erroneously based; first, that I am not aware of any person in Syria having been in the secret of my operations, and cognizant of all my plans, until after their execution, since I consider secrecy as the main-spring of success; and, secondly, that I do not admit

the right of any naval officer on a special station to attempt the control of those operations, in the manner you have thought proper to assume, upon the same principle that I presume would guide you, were I to venture to give you a lesson on the best mode of manœuvring your ship.

At the same time I am, and have always been, most happy to receive any opinion or explanation, provided they be given with the courtesy and respect due to the General intrusted with the operations of the army.

It is to me a matter of deep regret, after the transcendent services rendered by the British fleet, that in the very last operation you should have thought proper to decline any naval co-operation in the projected movement upon Gaza; but it certainly is to me a much more cause of surprise, that you should have deemed it requisite to write an official letter, on an occasion when naval co-operation could not make any serious impression on the inland position of the enemy, and when the single column of Ramla was more than doubly sufficient for the attainment of my object; since it is well known, that, after the defeat of part of the Egyptian cavalry at El-Maisdal on the 15th instant, the enemy never ventured again to meet our troops beyond the river of Ascalon, although I advanced our cavalry on the following day, which was not half his number, and left it encamped ever since within one and a half hour's march of Gaza, while, at the same time, I sent the infantry and artillery to Jaffa on account of the impracticable state of the roads.

Under these circumstances it would have been, in my opinion, perfectly consistent with your responsibility, not to have given any naval co-operation in this operation, without officially declining it after my return to Jaffa, the more so, as I fully agreed with you on the impossibility of the steamers being of any immediate use. But it appears to have been your particular desire to have made the whole transaction a matter of official correspondence, which, although I do not decline, I would fain hope is now brought to a close.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
*Lieutenant-General commanding the
Army of Operations.*

Sub-Inclosure 44 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

*Head Quarters, Jaffa,
February 6, 1841.*

Sir,

THE Chief of the Staff of this army, Mehemed Rechid Pasha, now at Gaza, having reported to me, that the Egyptian authorities maintain (verbally) that the Arabs of the Desert, who have pursued Ibrahim Pasha as far as Gaza, have secret orders still to harass him notwithstanding the Convention, I beg to transmit to your Excellency a copy of my letter to his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha on this subject, by which it will be perceived that orders to cease hostilities have been given on our part ever since the arrival of Hamid Bey and the other Commissioners of Peace.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
*Lieutenant-General commanding the
Army of Operations.*

Sub-Inclosure 45 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Ibrahim Pasha.

Monsieur le Général, *Quartier Général de Jaffa, 1 Février, 1841.*

APRES l'heureuse terminaison de la guerre en Syrie, je regrette d'apprendre que quelques Arabes du Désert continuent de harasser vos troupes. C'est au moins ce qu'on dit, car je n'ai pas de nouvelles officielles.

Il y a quinze jours, et immédiatement après l'arrivée de Hamid Bey, que tant son Excellence le Séraskier Ahmed Zacharias Pasha que moi ont donné partout des ordres précis de cesser les hostilités, et Hassan Pacha, commandant du côté du Djebel Khalil et du Désert, a non seulement agi d'après ces ordres, mais il a donné un sauf conduit aux troupes sous le Général Ahmed Ménikli Pacha, pour les conduire à Gaza, en empêchant les Chéiks voisins de guerroyer.

Toutefois, pour persuader votre Excellence de notre entière bonne foi et notre désir sincère de faire cesser cette malheureuse guerre, j'envoie au quartier général de votre Excellence deux officiers Autrichiens, M. le Comte Szechenyi et le Baron Dumont, munis d'ordres sévères pour les Chéiks Arabes. Son Excellence le Séraskier écrira dans le même sens à votre Excellence ce soir ou demain.

En attendant je me permets de recommander à l'accueil bienveillant de votre Excellence, M. le Comte Szechenyi, parent de son Excellence le Prince Metternich, et M. le Baron Dumont, qui tous les deux se proposent de visiter l'Egypte, et qui pour cela m'ont demandé comme une faveur d'être choisis pour être porteurs de cette lettre, afin d'avoir l'honneur d'être présentés à votre Excellence.

Heureux, si les affaires me le permettaient d'avoir moi-même l'avantage de voir votre Excellence, je n'ai pour le présent cas que la prier d'agréer l'expression de hommages avec laquelle j'ai, &c.,

(Signé) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-Général commandant l'Armée d'Opérations.

Sub-Inclosure 46 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Commodore Napier.

*Imperial Head Quarters, Jaffa,
February 8, 1841.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd February, by which you inform me that several frigates and transports have been sent to embark the remains of the Egyptian army at Gaza.

There exists neither on the part of his Excellency Ahmed Zacharias Pasha, Seraskier of Syria, nor on my own, any objections to this measure, as it hastens the evacuation of Syria; there existed, however, before the actual arrival of these transports, a very serious one, because we could not have sanctioned any delay under the possibly vain pretext that the Egyptians were waiting for transports, and consequently would not have moved by land in the mean time.

I am not aware that any difficulties have been raised by the Turkish authorities, in the way of the execution of the Convention or arrangement sanctioned by the Allied Powers and the Sublime Porte; but Ibrahim Pasha having *de facto* evacuated Syria, and being thrown into the Desert ever since the 6th January, when he quitted El-Mezerib, it certainly could not be contemplated by any Convention stipulating the evacuation of Syria, that it embraced also the eventuality of his returning into

the country, particularly in the mode he attempted at Jericho on the 14th and 15th of January, putting to fire and sword all the neighbourhood.

It is to me a matter of real concern, that false reports, intentional or not, should have made you erroneously suppose that this army was destined to make any hostile movement on the remains of the Egyptian troops. If such had been the intention I should not have waited for a concentration of troops at Gaza, but should have attacked them as they arrived at long intervals, in isolated columns, from the Desert, in the most helpless state.

If the Turkish authorities had really contemplated hostilities, an easy and valid excuse would have been found in the fact, that Ibrahim Pasha had already by two days exceeded the term of evacuation, granted on the 30th of January for only seven days.

After acquainting you, Sir, with these circumstances, I cannot any further be responsible for reports arising from the visions of terrified imaginations at Gaza.

The Turkish authorities consulting the British officers at these headquarters, have duly considered, in a General Council, your letter of the 11th of January, and such instructions as they possess from other official sources in the present state of affairs in the Levant. Their proceedings have been made known both to his Excellency Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, and to the Sublime Porte. They accept without hesitation the consequences of their former resolutions, and of that taken to-day, to permit the embarkation of a corps of infantry at Gaza, notwithstanding that neither Sir R. Stopford's orders, nor those of his Excellency Mazloum Bey, specify anything about the embarkation of armed bodies on any part of the Syrian coast, granting only this favour to women, children, sick, and wounded men.

The brilliant services which you, Sir, rendered in this memorable war, have not been bestowed on a worthless cause, and the proceedings of the Ottoman Commanders and authorities are not so extravagant as they are deemed at Alexandria. They are (notwithstanding a momentary impression to the contrary, founded on illusion) in conformity with the existing treaties, in conformity with the customs of civilized nations, in conformity with the laws of humanity, in conformity with the interests of the Sublime Porte, and, ranging higher than all these considerations, they are in conformity with the military point of honour!!!

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General commanding the Army of Operations.

Sub-Inclosure 47 in No. 174.

Captain Houston Stewart to Colonel Bridgeman.

Sir,

*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 14, 1841.*

THE evacuation of Syria by the Egyptians being now almost effected, I beg to represent to you the propriety which in my opinion exists for the Royal Marine Artillery being withdrawn from Sidon, and my reasons for forming this opinion are simply these:—

1st. My knowledge of the Admiral's intention that they should be taken to Marmorice so soon as the officer commanding the British forces ceased to entertain any fears for the safety of Sidon.

2ndly. The circumstance of the plague having made its appearance at Sidon, happily but in one case as yet, although now it is reported to be severe at Tyre; and foreseeing as I do much painful embarrassment should any of the Royal Marine Artillery detachment be attacked by that disease.

3rdly. The necessity which I am under, in obedience to instructions, of sending all the vessels of war at present under my orders, to rejoin the flag at Marmorice so soon as Syria is clear of the Egyptian troops, leaving only the "Hecate" steam-vessel at your disposal, whilst, by taking advantage of the presence of the "Magicienne," the whole detachment with their field equipage could embark in that vessel, the "Hazard" taking away the small remnant of the marine detachment still at St. Jean d'Acre.

Should you entertain any doubt of the removal of the Royal Marine Artillery being approved of, I feel myself quite justified, from the communications I have had with Sir R. Stopford, Sir C. F. Smith, and the late General Michell, to tender to you my earnest advice to do so, taking, as I readily do, my full share of any responsibility which may be incurred thereby.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HOUSTON STEWART,
*Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," and
Senior Officer on the Coast of Syria.*

Sub-Inclosure 48 in No. 174.

Colonel Bridgeman to Captain Houston Stewart.

Sir,

*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 15, 1841.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, representing the propriety which exists in your opinion for the removal of the Royal Marine Artillery from Sidon to the fleet. The evacuation of this country by the Egyptian army, the often repeated wishes of the Admiral Commanding-in-Chief, and the impression on my mind that it was the intention of the late Brigadier-General Michell to permit of their being so withdrawn, so soon as the posture of Syrian affairs would admit, must, of course, very much influence my judgment; but, at the same time that I take upon myself the responsibility of assenting to their removal, I must confess that I much regret to find by your letter, that we are also to be deprived of the presence of the several ships of war now on the coast, with the exception of the "Hecate" steamer. As, however, in the event of an extension of the plague along the coast, it would be impossible, with one steamer only, to embark the Royal Artillery at Beyrout as well as the Royal Marine Artillery at Sidon, I must consider the absence of any ship of war as an additional reason for a diminution of the force.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel Commanding.

Sub-Inclosure 49 in No. 174.

General Jochmus to Admiral Stopford.

Sir,

*Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 15, 1841.*

FROM the despatches and returns which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 2nd and 3rd instant, it will have been perceived that the amount of the remains of Ibrahim Pasha's retiring army, was 18,800 combatants and 2,700 non-combatants, making a grand total of 21,500 men of all arms, regulars and irregulars.

From all the reports and returns which I have since received from my Turkish and European Staff-Officers, most of whom were sent to ascertain

their numbers, I find that this estimate requires no alteration and is perfectly correct.

The remains of the Egyptian cavalry preserve some military order. The rest of the troops returned from Syria are utterly disorganized, and the daily losses from disease in consequence of excessive fatigue, amounted daily to 50 or 60 between the camp of Gaza and El-Arish.

It is extraordinary that the casualties should not be more numerous, considering the sufferings in the desert, and the fact that whole regiments have been actually living for whole days on the grass and herbs of the wilderness.

For more than ten days the only rations issued to most of the columns, were two or three camels for each regiment on the march.

Ibrahim Pasha himself is very ill, and has sent for an English physician to their head-quarters. Dr. Robertson is gone to attend his Excellency.

I do not suppose, according to the annexed estimate, that out of the whole of the remaining 21,500 men, more than one-half, or about 11,000, will be borne again on the strength of the Egyptian army.

I have calculated the probable loss of the march from Maan to Gaza into Egypt, and the amount of desertion when arrived in Egypt, at only 4,000 men. If it be considered that a great proportion of the now remaining troops are married men, and consequently the worst of soldiers, who did not desert in Syria because their wives and children went *via* Maan, but who will desert on the very first occasion that offers in Egypt, the above estimated reduction will be found very moderate, the more so, as there are about 2,000 irregular Henedy Horse who have pillaged Syria during ten years, and are averaged to carry from 15,000 to 20,000 piastres worth in horses, arms, and money, back into Egypt, all of whom will go to their homes.

The last Egyptian troops left Gaza on the February. In all, there were embarked, up to the 13th instant, about 3,000 sick, wounded, and others *hors de combat*, with some women, and the skeletons of some infantry regiments; about 3,000 more men waited till to-day to embark, and were prevented by the surf.

The rest went by land to Egypt *via* El-Arish.

It may be calculated that out of the debris of the former Syrian army and the regular troops still in Egypt, Mehemet Ali, or any future Pasha of Egypt, may re-form a peace establishment of 20,000 to 25,000 effective soldiers. Such a force may also be maintained in the long run without too heavy charges, out of a population amounting at present from 1,800,000 to 2,000,000, of which the permanent soldiery would form $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and would eventually afford an accession of strength to the Turkish empire. The larger rival military power on the banks of the Nile, now fortunately broken in its most essential elements, would have been only a seed of destruction in the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General commanding the
Army of Operations.

Sub-Inclosure 50 in No. 174.

Estimate of the Effective Force of Ibrahim Pasha's Army, returned to Egypt, and unfit for further service.

Head Quarters, Jaffa, February 10, 1841.

DISTRIBUTION.	Total of Regular and Irregular Forces, according to the General Returns of February 2, 1841.		Grand Total.
	Effective Combatants.	Non-Combatants.	
Returning to Egypt by Gaza and Maan	18,800	2,700	21,500
Embarked at Gaza and sent to El-Arish for embarkation, on mules and camels as <i>hors de combat</i>	3,000		
Died of disease at Gaza and El-Arish during the last 20 days, in consequence of excessive fatigue, at the rate of 50 men per day	1,000		
Deserted during that time	500		
Turks and Syrians to be sent back to Syria and Constantinople	2,000		
Probable loss on the march by the Desert to Cairo, and estimated desertion when arrived in Egypt	4,000		
	10,500	1,900	12,400
Remain fit for further service	10,200	800	11,000

Approved,

(Signed)

A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General.
J. FREESTUN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Sub-Inclosure 51 in No. 174.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson to Colonel Bridgeman.

Sir,

Jaffa, February 19, 1841.

HAVING this moment arrived from Gaza, I have the honour to report to you, that his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha embarked there yesterday afternoon; and during the night, the garrison, consisting of about 800 men, also embarked on board the Egyptian steamer "Hadji Baba," for Damietta; and that on his Excellency getting under weigh this morning, the whole of the remaining cavalry, consisting of one regiment of cavalry of the guard, and one of cuirassiers, with two camps of irregular cavalry, marched from El-Arish, thus completing the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops.

I met a regiment of Turkish cavalry on the road to Gaza, to take possession of it in the name of the Sultan; and the new Governor was, I understood, expected in the course of the day.

The number of Egyptian troops, therefore, which have marched, and embarked from Gaza, consists of 29,000 regular troops, and 4,000 irregular ditto; including infantry, cavalry, and sick.

In addition to these, must be taken into consideration the column which went by the Desert with the women, artillery, and detachments from every regiment for the protection of their sick and baggage, and said to exceed 4,000 men.

A very considerable number of women and children have also both marched and embarked from Gaza, not included in this statement.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. C. ALDERSON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding
the Royal Engineers.*

No. 175.

Lieutenant Aldrich to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord,

*Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
January 23, 1841.*

I REGRET I have to inform you, by the desire of Brigadier-General Michell, that he is at present totally incapable of writing in consequence of severe suffering from fever and ague. He hopes, however, in a few days to be so far recovered as to have the honour of addressing your Lordship in detail, with reference to the events which have occurred in this country since his last despatch to you from Acre of the 31st December, 1840.

Colonel Bridgeman, I regret to say, is equally unwell with the Brigadier-General from fever and ague.

I am commanded to acquaint you of the arrival here, on the 17th instant, of Lieutenant Loring of Her Majesty's ship "Carysfort," bringing despatches from Commodore Sir Charles Napier, dated Alexandria, 10th January, 1841, announcing the favourable conclusion of his Treaty with Mehemet Ali. Lieutenant Loring was accompanied by Hamid Bey, an Egyptian officer, the bearer of orders to Ibrahim Pasha from his father to evacuate Syria immediately. On the same day these officers, with a staff officer from the Seraskier and Major Wilbraham from the British headquarters, as soon as horses and an escort could be procured for them, proceeded by Jerusalem to Ibrahim Pasha's camp. On the 21st instant, in consequence of the arrival of a Turkish despatch, Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun of the Royal Artillery and Captain Arbuthnot of the Royal Navy followed those officers as British Commissioners, with the guarantee from his Excellency the Seraskier, Brigadier-General Michell, and from Captain Houston Stewart, Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," that the divisions of the Egyptian Army retreating into Egypt should be protected and assisted, to cause as little delay and loss of life as possible.

Captain Arbuthnot came here on the 20th instant, in Her Majesty's sloop "Dido." Major McNiven is therefore the only officer who, agreeably to your Lordship's instructions, has not joined the British forces in Syria.

The Brigadier-General commanding further desires me to acknowledge his receipt of Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, of your Lordship's despatches to him.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD ALDRICH,
Lieutenant, Assistant Military Secretary.

No. 176.

Sir John Barrow to Lord Leveson.

My Lord,

Admiralty, March 13, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated the 1st of March last, No. 50, and its accompanying letter from Lieutenant Loring, reporting his proceedings relative to the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

"Princess Charlotte,"

Malta, March 1, 1841.

REFERRING you to my letter of this date, No. 49, by "Prometheus," *via* France, I beg now to inclose the copy of Lieutenant Loring's letter, alluded to in Commodore Sir Charles Napier's letter of the 21st instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure in No. 176.

Lieutenant Loring to Commodore Napier.

Sir,

Gaza, February, 17, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in pursuance of your orders, dated Alexandria, January 10, 1841, I accompanied Hamid Bey in the steam-vessel "Generoso" to Acre; and having learnt from the authorities there, that the head-quarters of the Allied forces were established at Jaffa, proceeded to that place by land, the state of the weather rendering it improbable that disembarkation could be effected on the exposed beach.

We arrived on the morning of the 17th of January, and I immediately delivered to General Michell and Captain Stewart the despatches, which you did me the honour to intrust to my care. By their recommendation we proceeded, as soon as the means of travelling could be procured, to Jerusalem, Major Wilbraham and Selim Bey accompanying us; the former by the order of General Michell, the latter by that of the Seraskier, carrying also a letter to His Highness Ibrahim Pasha, and an order to all Turkish Authorities and Arab Sheiks to assist and forward us on our route.

Arriving at Jerusalem at 10 A.M. the following morning, we learnt that Hassan Pasha, with 8,000 men and six pieces of artillery, had marched southward the day before, by Bethlehem and El-Halil, to cut off the retreat of the Egyptian army, supposed then to be in the neighbourhood of Kerek and retiring on Gaza.

Anxious, from the spirit of your instructions, to prevent any hostile collision between the two armies, we hastened on, and were fortunate in overtaking the Turkish Pasha at El-Halil in time to prevent his further

advance; and he was soon afterwards induced to retire on Jerusalem, which place had been left unprotected by this forward movement.

By the advice of Hassan Pasha, and under the protection of an Arab Sheik, we proceeded towards the ford of the Jordan; but, when in the neighbourhood of Engaddi, obtained information which caused the immediate alteration of our course southward, passing along the Dead Sea to the tents of Abder Rhaman, the Sheik of the El-Halil district: here we were much disappointed at finding that, notwithstanding the order of the Seraskier, and although direct from the presence of the Pasha, by whom he had been sent to meet us, he at once refused to accompany us, or to assist our advance.

As we were already acquainted with the impossibility of penetrating this wild country, without the active assistance of the Sheiks, (as the Arab hordes, caring for neither friend nor foe, were collected in considerable force to plunder the rear of the retreating army,) we were obliged most reluctantly to turn our steps westward, and reached Gaza on the night of January 22, where we found Ahmed Menikli Pasha had arrived the day before with the main body of the cavalry, and that the infantry were expected very soon in three divisions, Ibrahim Pasha himself bringing up the rear.

At the request of Hamid Bey, I immediately left for Jaffa, to represent to General Michell and the Authorities there the obstructions which we had met with from the Sheik Abder Rhaman, and also to complain, on the part of Ahmed Pasha, that the Arabs were still carrying on active hostilities; and from him to request that the Turkish General should either himself suppress such irregularities, or permit the Egyptian troops to employ force.

The death of the late lamented General Michell took place the morning after my arrival at Jaffa; but as soon after as circumstances would admit, Captain Stewart and Rechid Pasha proceeded to Gaza in the "Hecate" to regulate such differences. Availing myself of the same opportunity, I returned to Gaza, and rejoined Hamid Bey and Major Wilbraham at Soumecha, where I found they had again been foiled by the Sheik Abder Rhaman, and we a second time returned to Gaza, where Ibrahim Pasha arrived on the afternoon of Sunday, January 31.

I have since been employed, according to your orders, in co-operation with Colonel Alderson of the Royal Engineers, in seeing the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian army carried into effect; and I have now the honour to acquaint you, that the whole of the troops have either marched for El-Arish, or have embarked for Damietta on their way to Cairo.

I subjoin as an accurate estimate of the troops which have left Gaza en route for Egypt, as I have been able to procure; the numbers are under rather than over rated. The irregular cavalry and the Arabs of Hennadi I have found it quite impossible to count. Several Egyptian officers have named them at 10,000; but I think there can hardly have been so many.

A division of 5,000 men with 175 pieces of artillery, under the command of Solyman Pasha, are reported to have marched from El-Mezerib on January 9, by the way of Maan to Suez and Cairo.

Regular infantry which have marched	9,200
Irregular or Arnaouts	1,400
Sick and feeble which have been embarked	3,900
Regular infantry	8,250
Irregular or Arnaout	800
	23,550

Regular cavalry which have marched	6,300
Horse artillery	140
	6,440

Total 29,990

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM LORING,
Lieutenant Royal Navy.

P. S.—I have omitted to mention the garrison of Gaza, amounting to nearly 600 men, and which have been embarked in the last steamer from Gaza.

No. 177.

Colonel Bridgeman to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 2.)

British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,

January 26, 1841.

My Lord,

FROM a letter addressed to your Lordship by Lieutenant Aldrich, the Assistant Military Secretary to the late Brigadier-General Michell, dated the 23rd of January, you will be led to expect a detailed report of the proceedings in Syria, from the time of the last despatch, under date the 31st of December, 1840. As therefore I am sufficiently recovered from an attack of fever, with which I have been confined for some days, I take the earliest opportunity of embodying and transmitting to your Lordship all the information which I can obtain from the sources at my command.

On the 29th of December, 1840, Ibrahim Pasha personally and finally evacuated Damascus, marching upon El-Mezerib. The city was shortly afterwards occupied by the irregular cavalry in the Sultan's service, and His Imperial Highness formally proclaimed. The Egyptian army halted at El-Mezerib on the 3d and 4th instant, and on the 5th, was supposed to have moved on the desert road in four divisions. The force may then have amounted to about 30,000 men, but no positive information on this head has been obtained. Your Lordship is aware, that up to the 31st of December, (the date of the last despatch which you will have received from General Michell,) the latest instructions to Lieutenant-General Jochmus, as well as to the officer commanding the British forces, from Lord Ponsonby, directed a continuance of offensive operations against the Egyptian army. Acting up to the spirit of these orders, Lieutenant-General Jochmus, on the 5th of January, broke up his cantonments at Sidon and at Tyre, and with a portion of the garrison of St. Jean d'Acre, mustering in all twenty battalions of infantry, moved with his artillery and a small force of cavalry upon Jaffa and Ramla. This induced a corresponding movement of a part of the British force, and on the 6th instant, Brigadier-General Michell and his head-quarters in the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate" steam-vessels with 100 marines, and Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun's detachment of Royal Artillery with their guns and stores from St. Jean d'Acre, proceeded to, and landed at Jaffa on the 7th. Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins's detachment of the Royal Artillery with his guns and stores, and a small detachment of the Royal Sappers and Miners, were directed also to embark at Beyrout, in Her Majesty's ship "Magicienne," on the 6th of January, and rejoined the Head-Quarters at Jaffa on the 11th. His Excellency the Seraskier, and Lieutenant-General Jochmus, (the latter of whom had been for some days making a reconnoissance in the neighbourhood of Hasbeya, and thence to Jerusalem,) arrived at Jaffa on the 9th. On the 12th instant, Lieutenant-General Jochmus proposed a movement upon Gaza, in which the Seraskier and Rechid Pasha were induced to acquiesce. Brigadier-General Michell, and Captain Houston Stewart of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," the senior naval officer on the coast (and who had been at the British Head-Quarters from the 29th of December,) opposed and objected to the operation, from political as well as from military reasons. On the evening of the 12th, Lieutenant-General Jochmus and the Seraskier proceeded to Ramla, and on the 13th, Brigadier-General Michell, with his staff-officers, joined the Turkish Head-Quarters at the above-named village. The attack upon Gaza being positively resolved upon, General Michell deemed it his duty to accompany the Turkish force, and assist the operation to the utmost of his power. In furtherance

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of this object, Captain Houston Stewart proceeded on board her Majesty's steam-vessel "Vesuvius" on the 14th instant, and with a reinforcement of one subaltern and fifty marines from the Jaffa garrison, the "Hecate" steamer accompanying, ran down the coast for the purpose of co-operating, as events might dictate, with the land forces. The Turkish troops halted on the 13th at Ashdod, where, according to preconcerted arrangements, they were to have been joined by eight battalions from Jerusalem, under Rechid Pasha. This combined operation failed, however, as General Michell had foretold. Rechid Pasha, having been already two hours on his march towards Ashdod, received reports of Ibrahim Pasha's movements, which induced him to return forthwith to Jerusalem.

On the 14th, Lieutenant-General Jochmus (the Seraskier also being still present with the army) halted at Mejdill, three hours' march from Gaza. A copy of Lieutenant-General Jochmus's report of this operation, addressed to Sir Robert Stopford, is inclosed, (Inclosure 1.) As an allusion is made in this report to an affair with the enemy's cavalry who had advanced in some numbers upon Mejdill, I hope your Lordship will pardon me for reporting to you the very spirited conduct of Colonel Rose, who, whilst heading a charge of a party of irregular cavalry, was wounded; but I am happy to say, it has not turned out to be of a serious nature. He has in consequence been recommended by the Seraskier to the Imperial Government for a Turkish order.

I would also venture to mention to your Lordship, from my own personal observation, that during the pursuit (and the retreat was executed by the enemy in admirable order), British officers were with the most advanced troops, cheering on the irregular cavalry; and that on relinquishing the pursuit, having driven the enemy six or seven miles from our camp, our advance being then considerably inferior to the Egyptians, who had retired upon their reinforcements, the British officers were on the spot ready to assist in any further attack or pursuit. Major Wilbraham was present from the commencement of the affair, and we were joined by Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson of the Royal Engineers, and by Major Robe, and Mr. Crawford, a Midshipman of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," who had for some time past been staying at our Head-Quarters with Captain Stewart. These officers having been sent to Ascalon to ascertain whether the steam-vessels were in sight, heard the firing on their return, and quickly joined the Turkish advanced troops.

On the 16th instant, the Turkish infantry and artillery returned by the sea-coast from Mejdill to Jaffa. General Michell reached Jaffa the same day, and the "Vesuvius" and "Hecate" steamers also returned to their anchorage, and disembarked the marines, having found it impossible to communicate with, or even to approach, the Gaza coast, in consequence of the severity of the weather. On the following morning, the 17th, Lieutenant Loring, of Her Majesty's ship "Carysfort," accompanied by Hamid Bey, arrived at Jaffa, the bearers of the Convention concluded at Alexandria by Commodore Napier. A report of this is made to your Lordship in Lieutenant Aldrich's letter addressed to you on the 23d instant. For further explanation of the notification here of the ratification of this Convention, I forward a letter (Inclosure 2) from Commodore Napier, addressed to General Michell. Inclosure 3 is a letter consequently transmitted to Ibrahim Pasha by Brigadier-General Michell and Captain Houston Stewart, and despatched to the Head-Quarters of the Egyptian army by Major Wilbraham. Inclosure 4 is the copy of a letter addressed to the Commandant at Gaza.

On the 20th inst. a Council of War was held, at which the absolute necessity of abstaining from all offensive measures against the Egyptian army was advocated and enforced. Inclosure 5 is a copy of Lieutenant-General Jochmus's protest at the termination of the council, and Inclosure 6 is a letter also addressed to the Council by Mr. Wood. On the 21st, Lieutenant-General Jochmus left Jaffa for Jerusalem, and by perusing the inclosed letter (Inclosure 7) from him to the Seraskier, your Lordship will be made acquainted with his position in that City. The staff-officers being all variously employed, Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun of the Royal Artillery was requested to proceed with Captain Arbuthot to Jerusalem, on

the 21st, with the instructions contained in Inclosures 8 and 9; and on the 22nd, at the request of the Seraskier, another officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, Royal Engineers, proceeded to Gaza; his instructions are embodied in Inclosure 10.

I have thus endeavoured to furnish your Lordship with as complete a summary of the occurrences which have taken place from the date of Brigadier-General Michell's last despatch to the day of his death, as my means will admit of. If I have trespassed too much upon your Lordship's time, I trust I shall be pardoned.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel commanding the British Forces in Syria.

P.S.—I have omitted to acquaint your Lordship that Zacharias Pasha, the new Seraskier Pasha, and the successor of Izzet Pasha, arrived at Beyrout on the 19th of December, from whence, as I have already mentioned in my letter, he reached Jaffa on the 9th of January.

Inclosure 1 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 41 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 177.

Commodore Napier to General Michell.

Sir,
Her Majesty's Ship "Carysfort,"
Alexandria, January 10, 1841.

THE bearer of this letter is charged by me (agreeably to the orders of Sir Robert Stopford, in consequence of directions from Lord Palmerston, to carry my Convention into effect) to proceed with Hamid Bey to the head-quarters of Ibrahim Pasha, and to deliver to him the order of Mehemet Ali, for the immediate evacuation of Syria.

It is Sir Robert Stopford's directions that every facility is to be given for the embarkation of the sick, the wounded, the women, and children, and others of the Egyptian Army at Kaiffa.

But it appears to me (if there is no objection, of which I cannot be a judge here) they may be permitted to embark at any other place, if more convenient.

The officer charged with despatches to Ibrahim Pasha will necessarily consult with him and with you on this point as well as the officer who is charged to see the evacuation carried into effect.

It is needless to observe, that as Mehemet Ali has made his submission to the Porte and is reinstated in the Pashalic of Egypt, it is of the utmost importance that he should not only not be disturbed in his evacuation, but that he should be protected and assisted in every manner, so as to cause as little loss of life as possible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Inclosure 3 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 8 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 9 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 37 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 38 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 7 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 39 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 8 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 10 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 9 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 11 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 10 in No. 177.

[See Sub-Inclosure 12 in No. 174.]

No. 178.

Colonel Bridgeman to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord,

*British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 2, 1841.*

IN my despatch No. 2, dated the 26th of January, 1841, I had the honour to lay before your Lordship a summary of events to the date of Brigadier-General Michell's death, and I now resume the subject, and shall endeavour to place your Lordship in full possession of the several occurrences which have subsequently taken place.

In the despatch of the 23rd of January, 1841, your Lordship was informed that, on the 17th of January, Major Wilbraham, accompanied by Lieutenant Loring, Royal Navy, Hamid Bey, and a Staff-Officer of the Seraskier Pasha's, left this place for Jerusalem, with orders to proceed thence to the head-quarters of Ibrahim Pasha. These officers, after a long and fruitless expedition by the southern extremity of the Dead Sea, turned westward to Gaza, hoping there to obtain some accurate information of Ibrahim Pasha's line of march. From thence Lieutenant Loring returned to this place on the 23rd, bringing us the news of the arrival there, on the 22nd, of the advanced guard of Ibrahim Pasha's army under the command of Ahmed Pasha. Major Wilbraham on the same day again left Gaza with Hamid Bey for El-Khalil, from whence on the 25th, in company with Hamid Bey, Omar Pasha the Turkish General, and Captain Arbuthnot, (with whom he had fallen in at El-Khalil,) he proceeded to the Pass of Suera, through which it was expected Ibrahim Pasha would retire to Gaza.

In order to satisfy ourselves of the good faith of the Generals of the

Egyptian army, and at the same time to afford them every possible assurance that the retreat of their army would be not only protected, but favoured and assisted to the utmost of our power, (they having expressed a slight distrust in consequence of some movements of the Turkish troops at El-Khalil,) Captain Stewart, accompanied by Rechid Pasha, Lieutenant Loring, Royal Navy, and Colonel Rose, embarked on the 25th on board Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Hecate," and landed early on that day at Gaza. They were at the same time to urge the speedy evacuation of that place, and the retirement to the Egyptian frontiers of the troops which were daily arriving. I also instructed Colonel Rose (so soon as he should be provided with a sufficient Turkish escort, taking with him an Egyptian officer of rank) to proceed on the route by which Ibrahim Pasha would most probably approach Gaza, and secure him, as far as possible, from any act of aggression on the part of the Bedouin Arabs, or other irregular troops. From the tenour of Lieutenant-General Jochmus's protest* transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 2, and from the letter of Mr. Wood†, addressed to the Seraskier Pasha and to the President of the Council, your Lordship will observe that there has been a manifest disposition to harass Ibrahim Pasha's retreat.

On the 24th of January, (the day before Captain Stewart proceeded to Gaza,) a Council was held at the Seraskier Pasha's, at which Captain Stewart and Colonel Rose were present. On leaving the Council, they were under the full impression that all intention of offensive operations against Ibrahim Pasha was abandoned, and that the Convention would be acted up to with sincerity and good faith. With the greatest surprise, therefore, Captain Stewart ascertained subsequently, in the course of conversation with Rechid Pasha, that notwithstanding this supposed decision of the Council, secret orders had been sent to General Jochmus to act upon Ibrahim Pasha's line of retreat, and to throw every impediment in his way, but to abstain from any direct attack. These orders were given under the impression that Ibrahim Pasha's force was very considerably reduced as to numbers, and in a completely disorganized state.

The very large and comparatively effective force, however, which (so contrary to their general assumption of the almost entire disorganization of the Egyptian army in the desert) was concentrated at Gaza, had in the mean time considerably influenced Rechid Pasha, and convinced him that coercive measures against Ibrahim Pasha were hopeless. He returned, therefore, forthwith to Jaffa, arriving here on the morning of the 26th. Captain Stewart having written me word of the discovery he had made from Rechid Pasha of the transmission of secret orders by the Council for the discomfiture of the Egyptian retiring force, I immediately proceeded to the Seraskier Pasha's, where Rechid Pasha placed in my hands the very letter, which, as he assured me, had been written by him with the consent of the Council to General Jochmus, but which he found had not been sent. I strongly protested against the course they had adopted, by which the honour of the British name and of the Turkish cause would so assuredly have been compromised, as being so directly at variance with the assurances which Captain Stewart and Colonel Rose had made to Ahmed Pasha, and I received the most positive declaration that no hostile movements of any nature should be made, and that every possible assistance should be given to the Egyptians. To reiterate these assurances personally to Ahmed Pasha, Rechid Pasha returned on the 28th of January to Gaza. The Seraskier Pasha and Rechid Pasha also proposed the removal of 17 battalions of infantry from Jerusalem to Ramla, of 2,000 irregular cavalry to Ashdod, and of two regiments of irregular cavalry to reinforce a small advanced post of Lancers at Mejdill. To the removal of the 17 battalions from Jerusalem to Ramla as purely a defensive measure, and consequent upon the parallel movement of Ibrahim Pasha's troops upon Gaza, I did not object, nor did I to the addition of the two regiments of regular cavalry, merely suggesting that they should be stationed at Ashdod instead of Mejdill, as being a connecting link

* See Inclosure 5 in No. 177.

† See Inclosure 6 in No. 177.

with Jaffa and Ramla, and further removed from the Egyptian cantonments at Gaza; but I did object, and was obliged strongly to protest, before I gained my point against the advance to Ashdod of any irregular troops. These forces are under little or no control, and would, in all probability, have taken the first opportunity of placing themselves upon the line of march of any isolated Egyptian column, and of committing the same excesses as the Bedouin Arabs, from whose attacks (and they pay but little respect to either Turkish or Egyptian flag) we were doing all in our power to secure the Egyptian force.

On the 29th of January I received from Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, who still remained at Gaza in communication with Ahmed Pasha, the Note of which a copy is inclosed, (Inclosure 1), and which he and Captain Stewart had obtained from Ahmed Pasha and the other Egyptian Generals, exchanging with them all possible assurance of good faith in the execution of the Convention. Inclosure 2 is the partial affirmation of this document by the Seraskier Pasha, Lieutenant-General Jochmus, and the Moustechar Effendi; and Inclosure 3 is the copy of my letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, in which it is transmitted. Major Wilbraham and his companions ceased not, in the mean time, to prosecute their search, and were twenty-four hours in the desert without water; all their exertions were, however, fruitless, and it was not until the 31st of January, that Colonel Rose (in consequence of information obtained from some deserters of Ibrahim Pasha's column) was enabled to ascertain his exact line of march. On the morning of that day he came up with Ibrahim Pasha about twenty miles from Gaza, on the route from the southern extremity of the Dead Sea; and having delivered to him a copy of Mehemet Ali's instructions for the evacuation of Syria, accompanied him to Gaza. This morning Colonel Rose and Captain Stewart returned from thence, and the former officer has placed in my hands the inclosed translated copy of a Note addressed to the Seraskier Pasha by Ibrahim Pasha, with which the Seraskier has expressed himself as satisfied. From the reports I have received, it would appear that the Egyptian force which has reached Gaza, amounted to about 15,000 infantry and 6,000 or 7,000 cavalry. Of the former, 2,000 men are stated to have been sent to El-Arish before the arrival at Gaza of Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson: subsequently, six regiments of regular cavalry, amounting to about 2,400 men, and 1,200 irregular cavalry, have also retired; and Captain Stewart is decidedly of opinion, that the evacuation will be performed without any unnecessary delay, and that within a fortnight not an armed Egyptian will remain in Syria. But whilst the wind remains in its present quarter, it is impossible either to land the biscuit for the troops, which they must carry with them on their homeward march, or to embark the women, the sick, and the wounded.

Colonel Rose having had some personal communication with Ibrahim Pasha, and being enabled to afford further information, I have ventured to direct him to proceed in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Vesuvius," to carry my despatches to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford and to Lord Ponsonby, returning, so soon as he has delivered them, to the headquarters of our force. I purpose proceeding to Gaza on the 5th instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel Commanding the British
Forces in Syria.

P.S.—Probable Turkish force in Southern Syria:—regular infantry 18,000; regular cavalry 3,500; irregular cavalry 3,000; irregular infantry of the Lebanon and Naplouse, 10,000.

Inclosure 1 in No. 178.

[See Sub-Inclosure 15 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 178.

[See Sub-Inclosure 16 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 178.

[See Sub-Inclosure 17 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 178.

[See Sub-Inclosure 18 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 178.

[See Sub-Inclosure 19 in 174.]

No. 179.

Lieutenant-Colonel Napier to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 13.)

My Lord,

Alexandria, February 2, 1841.

I TAKE the liberty of inclosing to your Lordship the copy of a despatch I sent to-day to the officer in command of the British force in Syria, as it is likely to reach England long before you could receive the same intelligence from our head-quarters, at present at Jaffa.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

E. E. NAPIER,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Assistant-Adjutant-General
to the Forces in Syria.*

Inclosure in No. 179.

Lieutenant-Colonel Napier to Colonel Bridgeman.

Sir,

Alexandria, February 2, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that after my audience with His Highness Mehemet Ali, on the 25th ultimo, (with the result of which I made you acquainted,) I went in quest of Commodore Napier, whom I met with a short distance from Cairo, and returned with him to Alexandria.

With respect to the departure of the Syrians, the Commodore informs me, that although no mention was made of them in the Convention, it was perfectly understood that those who did not wish to accompany Ibrahim's army voluntarily to Egypt, were to be left at Gaza; but Commodore Napier is of opinion, that should you entertain any suspicion of its being intended to employ them against Ibrahim's retreating force, they had better be allowed to accompany him to Egypt, or to be disarmed.

I inclose a copy of the Convention, and mention the Commodore's request, that you use your utmost endeavours to prevent a collision between the Turks and the Egyptians.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

E. E. NAPIER,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Mr. Consul Moore to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Beyrout, February 17, 1841.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, No. 6, *via* Constantinople, I have the honour to inclose copy of my letter of the 13th to the Commanding Officer of Her Majesty's naval forces on the coast of Syria, and to inform your Lordship, that in consequence thereof, Captain Stewart arrived here last night, from Jaffa, by the "Vesuvius" steamer.

Mr. Wood, to whom I wrote on the subject, accompanied by Hoossein Pasha, is also come for the purpose of enquiring into, and preventing a recurrence of, the disorders committed by the Albanian troops in the service of the Porte.

The Seraskier, at Mr. Wood's desire, likewise left Jaffa, for Beyrout, immediately on the receipt of my letter, for the same object.

Ibrahim Pasha was to embark from Gaza, as soon as the state of the weather would permit, and I conclude, that by this time His Highness must be at sea, on his way to Alexandria, as the weather is now favourable.

The "Hecate" is hourly expected here, with positive information to that effect; and your Lordship will doubtless be informed, by this opportunity, through other channels, of Ibrahim Pasha's embarkation.

In Mr. Wood's opinion, the capture of Ibrahim Pasha and his shattered army was a certainty, had not the news of the Convention caused the suspension of operations against him.

The "Vesuvius" has brought up the marines, and the corps of artillery, from Jaffa; and Colonel Bridgeman and staff are expected here, without delay.

Solyman Pasha, with his division, had arrived at Akaba.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) N. MOORE.

P. S.—I beg to inclose a duplicate copy of the Note addressed to the Seraskier, by myself and colleagues collectively, on the 11th instant, upon the subject of the disorders committed by the Albanians.

I am happy to say, that in consequence of the measures taken, the demeanour of the Albanians has been much more orderly, and the public mind greatly tranquillized within the last two days.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Mr. Consul Moore to Captain Houston Stewart.

Sir,

Beyrout, February 13, 1841.

I WRITE, in the greatest haste, to acquaint you with the arrival, two days ago, in this town and neighbourhood, of a corps of about 2,000 Albanians.

Disorders and outrages of the most revolting description have marked their passage along the coast, from Tripoli to Beyrout.

Notwithstanding my strongest remonstrances to the contrary, these troops have been allowed to occupy houses in the neighbourhood, (from which the inhabitants have been expelled,) and to encamp in numbers, close to the town.

Only last night, the Spanish Vice-Consul was fired upon by one of these assassins, whilst at the door of his own residence. Providentially, the pistol missed fire.

I have the honour to inform you, that Captain Henderson, at my

request, accompanied me this morning to the Governor's, where, in a conference with the Turkish Commandant, we insisted, in the strongest terms, on the immediate removal, from the town and neighbourhood, of the Albanians; but both these functionaries are evidently under the influence of fear, and we have not been able to attain the object of our interview.

Such is the consternation that has seized the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, that public criers have called the people to arms, for the protection of their families and property.

Allow me, Sir, to call your immediate attention to this state of things; the town is evidently in the power of these brigands, as neither the Governor or Commandant dare issue orders for their removal.

I have already written to the Seraskier on the subject. I beg to refer for details, which time will not allow of my entering into, to Captain Henderson, to whom my warmest thanks are due, for the zeal and energy with which he has seconded my representations to the Authorities here.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) N. MOORE.

P. S.—It is equally necessary that the neighbourhood should be protected, and nothing short of the total removal of these people will calm the ferment their presence has created.

The Governor has published an order, requiring all the women and children to shut themselves up on the approach of the Albanians; and the people from the country, in the greatest terror, began to remove their effects into the town.

Considering how absolutely ruinous to many poor people this removal would be, the general disorder it would create, and the bad effects it would produce throughout the country generally, where it is above all things necessary, at the present moment, to inspire confidence, and give stability to the new Government, I induced the Governor, by strong remonstrances and representations of the impolicy of such a proceeding, to withdraw his order for the sequestration of the women and children, and to publish a counter notice, assuring every one of perfect security.

Having assumed so grave a responsibility by the above measure, which I conceived the interests of the Ottoman Government required, I feel most anxious to redeem the pledge which I have thus given for the general security, and which nothing can ensure but the removal of the Albanians from the country, where there is no necessity whatever for their presence.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Note to the Seraskier by the Consuls of the Allied Powers.

Beyrout, le 11 Février, 1841.

LES Soussignés, Consuls des Puissances Alliées de la Sublime Porte, s'empressent d'appeler l'attention de Son Altesse le Séraskier Pacha sur les désordres commis en dernier lieu par quelques corps de troupes qui viennent de pénétrer dans cette partie de la Syrie. Le pillage et les violences qu'ils ont exercés sur leur passage ont répandu la terreur parmi les habitants; dans plusieurs localités ces derniers ont eu recours aux armes pour la défense de leurs habitations et de l'honneur de leurs familles; si une collision sérieuse n'a pas encore éclaté, on ne saurait l'attribuer qu'à la modération et la prudence des habitants, et surtout à leur fidélité et leur dévouement au Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse,—sentimens dont ils viennent de donner des preuves si éclatantes.

Une nouvelle expédition de troupes irrégulières vient d'arriver à Beyrout. Les réclamations des Soussignés, et la sollicitude du Gouverneur, ont empêché leur entrée en ville; toutefois les campagnes environnantes sont en proie aux plus vives alarmes.

Témoins de cet état de choses, les Soussignés se bornent à signaler

l'imminence du danger; ils aiment à espérer que les ordres nécessaires seront immédiatement donnés pour l'éloignement de ces troupes, dont la présence parait tout-à-fait inutile dans cette partie de la Syrie, et menace de compromettre les intérêts de la Sublime Porte. Ils s'attendent également à ce que des mesures efficaces soient prises, afin de réprimer le renouvellement de ces désordres, et de rassurer la population.

En s'acquittant ainsi d'un devoir qui leur est imposé par les dispositions mêmes de leur Gouvernemens respectifs envers la Sublime Porte, ainsi que par l'humanité, les Soussignés s'empressent d'offrir à Son Altesse l'assurance de leur considération très-distinguée.

(Signé)

N. MOORE,
Consul d'Angleterre.
P. LAURELLA,
Consul d'Autriche.
J. CHASSEAUD,
Consul de Prusse.
C. BASILY,
Consul de Russie.

No. 181.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 12, 1841.

I HAD an interview this morning with M. Guizot. His Excellency read to me the greater part of a despatch which he had addressed to M. Bourqueney in reply to the confidential communication which your Lordship had made to the French Chargé d'Affaires, regarding a project of Convention to be signed by France, as well as by the other Great Powers of Europe.

This despatch, in its essential points, corresponded with the language which I, on Monday last, stated to your Lordship, the French Minister had held to me on this subject. M. Guizot then read to me a second despatch which he had written to the Baron de Bourqueney on Tuesday last, after having received intelligence from M. Cochelet of the refusal of Mehemet Ali to accède to the conditions of the Sultan's firman, reappointing Mehemet Ali, Pasha of Egypt. M. de Bourqueney is in this despatch directed to suspend the execution of the instructions previously sent to him, which were founded upon the assumption (contained in Protocols confidentially communicated to him by your Lordship) that the question between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali had been finally concluded. But M. Guizot said to me, that, whenever it was clearly established that the Treaty of July was a *fait accompli*, the French Government would send full powers to their Representatives in London, to sign a Convention, such as had been proposed to M. de Bourqueney by your Lordship. His Excellency made no observations upon the rigorous conditions imposed upon Mehemet Ali by the Sultan; but he said that his despatches from Constantinople stated, that Colonel Hodges had expressed disapprobation of the evasive mode of granting hereditary succession to Mehemet Ali, and that those from M. Cochelet stated that Commodore Sir Charles Napier had given his opinion that Mehemet Ali could not accept the conditions of the Sultan's firman.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 182.

Draft of Protocol.

LES difficultés dans lesquelles Sa Hautesse le Sultan s'est trouvé placé, et qui l'ont déterminé à réclamer l'appui et l'assistance des Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie, venant d'être applanies, et Méhémet Ali ayant fait envers Sa Hautesse le Sultan l'acte de soumission que la Convention du 15 Juillet était destinée à amener, les Représentans des Cours signataires de la dite Convention ont reconnue, qu'indépendamment de l'exécution des mesures temporaires résultant de cette Convention, il importe essentiellement de consacrer, de la manière la plus formelle, le respect dû à l'ancienne règle de l'Empire Ottoman, en vertu de laquelle il a été de tout tems défendu aux bâtimens de guerre des Puissances étrangères d'entrer dans les détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore.

Ce principe étant par sa nature d'une application générale et permanente, les Plénipotentiaires respectifs, munis à cet effet des ordres de leurs Cours, ont été d'avis, que pour manifester l'accord et l'union qui président aux intentions de toutes les Cours dans l'intérêt de l'affermissement de la paix Européenne, il conviendrait de constater le respect dû au principe susmentionné, au moyen d'une transaction à laquelle la France serait appelée à concourir, à l'invitation et d'après le vœu de Sa Hautesse le Sultan.

Cette transaction étant de nature à offrir à l'Europe un gage de l'union des Cinq Puissances, le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique ayant le Département des Affaires Etrangères, d'accord avec les Plénipotentiaires des Quatre autres Puissances, s'est chargée de porter cet objet à la connaissance du Gouvernement Français, en l'invitant à participer à la transaction, par laquelle, d'une part, le Sultan déclarerait sa ferme résolution de maintenir à l'avenir le susdit principe; de l'autre les Cinq Puissances annonceraient leur détermination unanime de respecter ce principe et de s'y conformer.

(Paraphé) E. N.
P.
B.
B.
C.

No. 183.

Draft of Convention.

LEURS Majestés l'Empereur d'Autriche, Roi de Hongrie et de Bohême, le Roi des Français, la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, le Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, persuadées que leur union et leur accord offrent à l'Europe le gage le plus certain de la conservation de la paix générale, objet constant de leur sollicitude; et leurs dites Majestés voulant attester cet accord en donnant à Sa Hautesse le Sultan une preuve manifeste du respect qu'elles portent à l'inviolabilité de ses droits Souverains, ainsi que de leur désir sincère de voir se consolider le repos de son Empire; leurs dites Majestés ont résolu de se rendre à l'invitation de Sa Hautesse le Sultan, afin de constater en commun, par un acte formel, leur détermination unanime de se conformer à l'ancienne règle de l'Empire Ottoman, d'après laquelle le passage des détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore doit toujours être fermé aux bâtimens de guerre étrangers, tant que la Porte se trouve en paix.

Leurs dites Majestés d'une part, et Sa Hautesse le Sultan de l'autre,

ayant résolu de conclure entre elles une Convention à ce sujet, ont nommé à cet effet pour leurs Plénipotentiaires; savoir:

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche, Roi de Hongrie et de Bohême, &c. &c.;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Français, &c. &c.;

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, &c. &c.;

Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse, &c. &c.;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, &c. &c.;

Et Sa Majesté le très Majestueux, très Puissant, et très Magnifique Sultan Abdul Medjid, Empereur des Ottomans, &c. &c.

Lesquels s'étant réciproquement communiqué leurs Pleins Pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, ont arrêté et signé les Articles suivans.

ARTICLE I.

Sa Hautesse le Sultan, d'une part, déclare qu'il a la ferme résolution de maintenir à l'avenir le principe invariablement établi comme ancienne règle de son Empire, et en vertu duquel il a été de tout tems défendu aux bâtimens de guerre des Puissances étrangères d'entrer dans les détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore; et que, tant que la Porte se trouve en paix, Sa Hautesse n'admettra aucun bâtiment de guerre étranger dans les dits détroits.

Et leurs Majestés l'Empereur d'Autriche, Roi de Hongrie et de Bohême, le Roi des Français, la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, le Roi de Prusse, et l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, de l'autre part, s'engagent à respecter cette détermination du Sultan, et à se conformer au principe ci-dessus énoncé.

ARTICLE II.

Il est entendu, qu'en constatant l'inviolabilité de l'ancienne règle de l'Empire Ottoman mentionnée dans l'Article précédent, le Sultan se réserve, comme par le passé, de délivrer des firmans de passage aux bâtimens légers sous pavillon de guerre, lesquels seront employés comme il est d'usage au service des légations des Puissances amies.

ARTICLE III.

Sa Hautesse le Sultan se réserve de porter la présente Convention à la connaissance de toutes les Puissances avec lesquelles la Sublime Porte se trouve en relation d'amitié, en les invitant à y accéder.

ARTICLE IV.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée, et les ratifications en seront échangées à Londres à l'expiration de mois, ou plutôt si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signée, et y ont apposé les sceaux de leurs armes.

Fait à Londres le de l'an de grâce mil huit cent quarante un.

(Paraphé)	E.	N.
	B.	
	P.	
	B.	
	B.	
	C.	

No. 184.*

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 50.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1841.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a draft of a Protocol of a Conference between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and the Sublime Porte; and a draft of a Convention between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, on the one part, and the Sublime Porte on the other part; which have been provisionally agreed to by the respective Plenipotentiaries, and which Her Majesty's Government hope will soon be signed by those Plenipotentiaries.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 185.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 43.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 16, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my Official Note in answer to the Official Note dated the 13th instant, which I received from the Sublime Porte.

Your Lordship will see the way in which I have treated the conduct of the Ottoman Minister, and I believe you will think I could not write in a more calm and civil tone and language, when I had to notice want of respect for the Queen's Embassy so evident, and which must be known to the whole Diplomatic Corps.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Viscount Ponsonby to Rechid Pasha.

Therapia, February 15, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., had yesterday the honour to receive an Official Note from the Sublime Porte dated the 13th instant, transmitted to him by his Excellency the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, together with a copy of two firmans, the one containing the conditions annexed by the Sublime Porte to the grant made to Mehemet Ali of the hereditary Government of Egypt; the other containing the grant to Mehemet Ali of the Government of the Provinces of Nubia, Darfour, Kordofan, and Senaar, and also a letter from the Grand Vizier to Mehemet Ali, all being dated the 13th of the month.

The Undersigned immediately forwarded the afore-mentioned papers to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, to which it belongs to reply to the wishes expressed by the Sublime Porte respecting the renewed aid to be afforded to the Ottoman Government in the event of a refusal, by Mehemet Ali, to obey the orders of his Sovereign conveyed in the firman.

The Undersigned must take notice of one paragraph in the Official Note he had the honour to receive from the Sublime Porte, because it does not quite correctly state the circumstances to which it adverts. It states, "En outre, la Sublime Porte, ainsi qu'il est connu à votre Excellence, a

* A similar despatch was sent to Lord Clanricarde, Lord William Russell, Lord Beauvale, and Lord Granville.

agi, depuis le commencement de la Question Egyptienne, d'après l'avis et les conseils des Quatre Augustes Cours, ses amies et alliées."

The fact is, that the firman which contains the conditions upon which His Imperial Majesty the Sultan grants the hereditary Government of Egypt to Mehemet Ali was not prepared with the advice and counsel of the Four Courts, the friends and allies of the Sultan, for that firman was prepared and perfected by the Ottoman Government without the knowledge of the Undersigned, who is recognized by the Sublime Porte as the Representative of the British Government in this country.

His Excellency the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs did notify to the Undersigned his Excellency's intention to communicate to the Undersigned a plan his Excellency had in consideration for the settlement of the Egyptian Question, but his Excellency did not make any such communication to the Undersigned. The papers mentioned in the Official Note were not given to the Dragoman of the British Embassy till after the measure had been decided, and the formal execution of it completed, and ordered to be sent to Alexandria within a few hours, that is, before the Undersigned could by any means have cognizance of them. The Undersigned, therefore, disclaims all responsibility whatever for the measures detailed in the firman containing the conditions.

The Undersigned feels a most anxious desire that the arrangement which the Sublime Porte has been pleased to make, may have the happy effect of terminating the long-agitated Question of Egypt.

The Undersigned, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 186.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 44.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 17, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of instructions which have been drawn up for his Excellency Saïd Mouhib Effendi, the Commissioner sent lately by the Sublime Porte to Alexandria; also copy of a firman which his Excellency was charged to deliver to Mehemet Ali Pasha.

I have this moment received the above papers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 186.

[See Inclosure 7 in No. 171.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 186.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 171.]

No. 187.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 49.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1841.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a Note which the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia, addressed to Chekib Effendi on the 13th instant, with reference to a communication made by him to the Conference on the 11th instant, of the Hatti-Sheriffs, issued by the Sultan on the 13th of February, specifying the conditions annexed by the Sultan to the grant to Mehemet Ali of the hereditary Pashalic of Egypt.

You will observe, that in that Note allusion is made to questions which may arise, as to the interpretation of parts of the Hatti-Sheriffs; and the Plenipotentiaries state, that those questions will find their solution upon reference being made to the Note, addressed by the Plenipotentiaries to Chekib Effendi on the 30th of January.

The principal question, to which allusion is thus made by the Plenipotentiaries, is that which might arise out of the wording of the first Article of the Hatti-Sheriff, which specifies the conditions to be imposed upon Mehemet Ali. The wording of that Article might lead to the supposition, that the Sultan intended to reserve to himself to choose upon each vacancy in the Pashalic of Egypt, any one of the descendants of Mehemet Ali, without regard to any fixed rule whatever; and that thus the principle of hereditary tenure would be rendered illusory.

Her Majesty's Government conceive, that this was by no means the intention of the Porte, and that what was meant to be established by the condition above-mentioned is, that while, on the one hand, the Sultan grants to the descendants of Mehemet Ali in the direct male line, hereditary succession in the Pashalic of Egypt, the Sultan reserves his own Sovereign rights intact, by declaring, that those descendants shall not succeed as a matter of course and of inherent right, as would be the case with the Rulers of an independent State, but shall each in turn receive his appointment from the Sultan, and by a separate act of the Sultan's Sovereign power.

If this is a correct view of the meaning of the Article in question, there can be no difficulty on the part of the Porte in giving such an explanation thereof as will remove all misunderstandings; and the Porte might say, that it is the intention of the Sultan that this right of selection shall in all cases be exercised in favour of the next male heir to the deceased Pasha, unless, by infancy or by physical incapacity, such male heir should be incapable of taking charge of the administration of the province, in which case the person next in relationship to the deceased Pasha would be appointed in his stead. The Sultan might, at the same time, make it to be clearly understood, that it is his intention that Ibrahim shall succeed to Mehemet.

Her Majesty's Government have been informed, that Mehemet Ali has made representations to the Porte upon two other points,—the amount of tribute, and the degree of military and naval rank up to which he is to be allowed to make appointments and promotions, in the forces maintained in Egypt.

The first is a question of account upon which, no doubt, an understanding will be come to between the parties. And the Four Powers purposely abstained from entering into that question, in framing the Separate Act of the Treaty of July, because they felt that they had no information which could enable them to judge what would be the proper amount for such tribute.

The second question also seems to be one about which it cannot be difficult to come to an understanding. It is necessary to maintain the principle, that all the military and naval appointments and commissions emanate originally from the Sovereign power of the State; but it seems a

matter of less importance to determine up to what degree of rank the selection of individuals for promotion shall be left by the Sultan to the discretion of the Pasha of the province.

There is, in this respect, great diversity in the practice of different countries. In some, all appointments from the lowest to the highest are made by the direct selection and act of the Crown; in other countries the Crown invariably, and as an established rule, takes the recommendation of Generals in local command, as to appointments and promotions, up to various degrees of rank. The important thing is, that each officer, high or low, should know and understand that he is in the service of the Sovereign, and not merely in that of the Provincial Governor.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 188.

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 92.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 15, 1841.

M. GUIZOT'S despatch of last Saturday to the Baron de Bourqueney has been, I imagine, already communicated to your Lordship, and will have apprised you, that, although full powers have not yet been sent to the French Chargé d'Affaires, he is authorised to *parapher*, or initial, the proposed Bosphorus Convention. M. Guizot said to me to-day, that the alterations which the Representatives of the Allied Powers had consented to make in the papers submitted to the French Government were satisfactory; and if the Turco-Egyptian Question had been settled, (the settlement of which was the basis of the proposition made to France,) full powers would have been sent to Baron de Bourqueney to sign immediately the Convention; but, under the existing circumstances, when conditions were imposed on Mehemet Ali by the Sultan, which the Pasha deemed to be inconsistent with what had been held out to him, if not positively promised by the Allies, and which he had in consequence refused, when it was unknown whether the Allies would assist the Sultan in enforcing those conditions, or use their influence at Constantinople to modify the conditions of the Hatti-Sheriff, and, in case of failing to obtain this object, would leave the Sultan and his Vassal to settle as they could their difference; it was impossible for the French Government to do more than authorise its Representative in London to *parapher* the Convention.

In giving this authority, he considered the French Government as entering into a positive engagement to sign the Convention, as soon as the Turco-Egyptian Question was really concluded; and he was the more anxious that this should be clearly understood, in consequence of having heard that Baron Brunnow regarded the *paraphering* as not binding upon his Court, but as giving to it the opportunity to confirm or alter the terms of the Convention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 189.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 19, 1841.

THE Turkish steamer that carried the firman with the conditions imposed by the Porte on Mehemet Ali, may reach Alexandria this day or to-morrow. It is not expected that an answer will arrive here under ten days.

I forwarded by the Vienna Post, copy of my Official Note to the Porte in my despatch No. 43. I did not think it advisable to state by that conveyance one of my chief motives for writing that Note, namely, to place your Lordship in perfect freedom from all responsibility for the measures taken, which may not succeed even at first, and which I confess I think are not at all likely to obtain the end for which they have been devised, of establishing permanent tranquillity. I inclose the answer Rechid Pasha made to the Dragoman, when he presented my Official Note. It is unnecessary perhaps to point out the futility of it. I shall let the matter drop here.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 189.

M. F. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 18 Février, 1841.

J'AI remis hier matin à son Excellence Réchid Pacha une traduction Française de la Note de votre Excellence avec l'original. Cela a fait quelque peine à Réchid. Il m'a parlé dans les termes suivans. "J'espérerais que son Excellence serait très-contente de ce que nous avons fait. Lord Ponsonby a dit dans la Conférence qu'il était d'accord avec ses Collègues sur tous les points excepté sur l'Article du Tribut. Ce que la Porte a fait à cet égard lui a paru concilier les deux opinions. J'ai dit à la vérité que je communiquerais confidentiellement une copie du firman à Lord Ponsonby, mais je n'ai pas pu le faire, parceque le projet était entre les mains du Sultan, et il ne m'a été renvoyé qu'avec l'ordre de Sa Hautesse de la communiquer officiellement aux Quatre Représentans, et de l'expédier à Alexandrie en original." Réchid a fini par protester de son profond respect pour votre Excellence.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) F. PISANI.

No. 190.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 52.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 20, 1841.

WITH reference to your instruction No. 14, I beg to express my regret that your Lordship disapproves of my conduct at the Conference; at the same time, I must venture to say, that I think I acted right and in conformity with the duty imposed on me by your Lordship's instructions.

I have reported in various despatches the conduct I have pursued since the period your Lordship has adverted to; and I am confident it will be found justified by your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 191.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 63.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 20, 1841.

I HAVE communicated to his Excellency Rechid Pasha, the opinion of Her Majesty's Government and of Prince Metternich, on the subject of the payment of the Maronite Clergy, and of the measure to be taken about the Ports of Syria, as I find it expressed in your Lordship's instruction No. 6, and its inclosure.

I have before this advised the Porte on these points.
The suggestion that some of the sea-ports should be placed in the hands of the Emir Bechir has been repeatedly made by Commodore Napier, and was always combated by me. I think it very mischievous policy.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 192.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 21, 1841.

I BEG leave to inclose confidentially a letter I received this morning from M. Titow. I inclose this letter, because it speaks of "explications" which Colonel Hodges was to give me, of the substance of what passed between the Internuncio and M. de Titow in the presence of the Colonel. I have now the honour to forward the Colonel's Note to me, containing the information upon the subject.

I beg leave to observe, that the last accounts from Alexandria, by the French steamer, state that Mehemet Ali is carrying on his preparations for war, and it is to be remarked that he was making those preparations after he knew that the hereditary Government of Egypt had been granted to him, and before the conditions to be annexed to that Grant, had been notified to him, or determined upon here.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 192.

M. de Titow to Viscount Palmerston.

Péra, le 21 Février, 1841.

LE Colonel Hodges vous aura informé, my Lord, de nos explications il y a quelques jours, avec M. l'Internonce, sur la question du retour des Consuls-Généraux à Alexandrie. Une fois que Mr. Hodges aura reçu les instructions que vous attendez de Londres à cet égard, le Comte Médem procédera également à faire ses paquets. Le Baron de Stürmer paraît vouloir suivre une marche analogue. Du reste, l'essentiel est aujourd'hui de savoir les nouvelles d'Egypte, après la réception des firmans confiés à Muhib Effendi. Je ne saurais vous exprimer, my Lord, combien je suis fâché que l'état de ma femme ne me permette point de me rendre plus souvent à Thérapia, et d'apprendre plus en détail vos opinions et vos prévisions sur tous ces objets.

Veillez, &c.,
(Signé) TITOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 192.

Colonel Hodges to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, February 21, 1841.

IN compliance with your Lordship's desire that I should report to you the purport of a conversation that took place in my presence between the Internuncio and M. Titow, as alluded to in the Note of the latter gentleman to your Lordship of this day's date, I beg to inform you, that on my way to call upon Madame Stürmer, on Saturday, the 13th instant, the day after the fire at the Austrian palace, I met the Internuncio, who requested me to accompany him to M. Titow's, whom, he told me, he

wanted to consult with, on the subject of Count Medem's accompanying M. Laurin the next day to Alexandria,—a measure, he said, he conceived the more necessary since your Lordship had written to him to say, that it was your belief that I should not be sent back to Egypt, and that under present circumstances, you would not take upon yourself to order my return to that country, until you received instructions from home.

In our interview with M. Titow, the Internuncio warmly and earnestly pressed M. Titow to send back Count Medem the next day with M. Laurin to Alexandria, saying, "All is now settled; the Sublime Porte has decided; Mehemet Ali is invested with the hereditary Government of Egypt. The conditions proposed to him I am sure he will accept, though he may possibly not intend carrying them into effect; and I conceive it indispensable that the Consuls-General should be at their posts—at least those of Russia and Austria." To which, M. Titow replied: "And suppose Mehemet Ali should reject the terms proposed?—would it not, therefore, be better to wait until we know his decision; as for myself, I should prefer waiting this result, as also to see what the intentions of the British Government may be regarding Colonel Hodges."

The Internuncio here replied: "What is the use of waiting? I know, that whether Mehemet Ali refuses or accepts the terms proposed to him by the Sublime Porte, that none of the Great Powers will impose them upon him. *Quant à nous, nous avons le feu à la maison; il faut que nous nous gardons.* We ought to conclude this question without delay."

M. Titow answered: "M. l'Internonce, I am not by any means of your opinion, that should Mehemet Ali refuse to accept the conditions now offered to him by the Sublime Porte, the Contracting Powers to the Convention of 15th of July will not enforce their execution upon him, and I therefore conceive I shall be acting more in accordance with the spirit of my instructions, by detaining Count Medem here, until I hear what the British Government mean to do with regard to Colonel Hodges." The interview here terminated.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. LLOYD HODGES.

No. 193.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 18.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, February 21, 1841.

I REQUESTED Colonel Rose to set down in writing what he had seen and heard in Syria, and he has been good enough to comply with my request, and to furnish me with a report, which I have the greatest pleasure in transmitting to your Lordship, thinking it to be extremely well worth your attention.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Colonel Rose to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Extract.)

Therapia, February 20, 1841.

THE despatches from Colonel Bridgeman will have made your Lordship acquainted with the numbers and description of the force which Ibrahim Pasha takes out of Syria, I will not therefore weary your Lordship with a repetition. With respect to the Syrians in his army, the 3rd Regiment of Guards and the Battalion of Riflemen are composed of them. They are both very much reduced by desertion, the former by the last accounts to 500 or 600 men, (the other regiments of the Guards being 1,500 strong,) and the latter to 250 men. The tendency of the Syrians to desert was so great, that during the march from Tafyle to Gaza, Ibrahim Pasha caused an Egyptian regiment to bivouac round the Syrian Riflemen in order to prevent their desertion. The Bedouins behaved very ill in plundering and stripping the deserters: if they had not thus checked the

desertion, there is no saying to what extent it might not have gone. In one little village in the mountains near Hebron, where I was, there were alone fifty deserters, all nearly naked and starving.

There are a great many Syrians in the Egyptian cavalry. I should think, that in all, 4,000 or 5,000 Syrians must have left their country with Ibrahim Pasha. Your Lordship is aware that Captain Houston Stewart and myself did our utmost to induce the Egyptian military authorities, Ahmed Dorumanli Pasha and Mahmoud Bey at Gaza, to leave behind the Syrian soldiers, Mehemet Ali having given up all authority over their country, and ordered its evacuation by his son; they said that they could not possibly do so without orders. I suggested that they might at least leave a return of their numbers, as the different regiments left Gaza, extracted from their regimental books: this they consented to. I left Gaza the next day in search of Ibrahim Pasha, but I understand from Colonel Alderson, who is superintending the evacuation at Gaza, that the Egyptians sent him the returns of Syrians in two regiments of cavalry, amounting the one to thirty-five, and the other to thirty-six; but neither Colonel Alderson nor myself consider these numbers correct. Your Lordship is aware of the answer given by Mehemet Ali to the application for the restoration of the Syrians to their country; which, as well as I remember, was to the following effect: "That his delivery of the Syrians serving in his army would follow on that of the Egyptians taken from him." However, as I did not see the document, I do not speak with certainty on this point.

When I came up with Ibrahim Pasha's column, there were two lines of videttes flanking it towards the Syrian side,—mounted and dismounted cavalry to prevent desertion. I rode for several miles along the column, which was in great disorder—in fact it was quite broken up; groups of men in two and threes, some armed, some not, others hardly able to walk. I saw two standards, one without any escort, the other with a guard of two men: they must have belonged to battalions which had been broken up on account of their casualties. Ibrahim Pasha's own horses had had no barley that day; the troops had been three days without water, and had subsisted chiefly on mule and donkey flesh, which sold at a high price: 200 determined cavalry might have swept away all that part of the column which I saw (I entered it at about two-thirds of its length), with great ease.

Ibrahim Pasha did not appear pleased when I gave him Mehemet Ali's letter. He was agitated, and it took him five minutes to read it, although it only consisted of four lines. Whilst he was thus employed, his camel-rider and chief groom were also endeavouring to read it over his shoulder. I rode with him for about four hours, and accompanied him to Gaza; he spoke with considerable bitterness of the Turks. He said, "Why have you turned out the Seraskier*?" I said that the Turkish Government had, I believed, recalled him, because they were not satisfied with his conduct. He answered, "Oh! they are all alike; they smoke all day, and have people to wash their hands." I said, "The present Seraskier is a very good man and soldier." "Oh yes," he replied, "as long as he is in the saddle; as soon as he sits down he will rob like the rest"—on which he laughed very much. "I am the only man," he said, "to manage the Arabs and Bedouins, who never had any master before me. I could and did cut off their heads, which the Turks never will do. Lord Palmerston from London, and Lord Ponsonby from Constantinople, will have to come here to manage Syria." I said, that certainly they had done so much without coming to the country, that there was no knowing what they might not effect, were they actually to do so. He did not look pleased. It appeared to me that he was either affecting high spirits, or that he had been drinking too much. He drank frequently from a bottle which hung in front of his saddle, and I was informed by an Egyptian Colonel of Artillery that it was filled with claret. He talked and laughed constantly with his servants. He is now

* Izzet Pasha.

suffering under a very bad attack of the jaundice, his eyes and head being quite yellow.

His reception at Gaza was very curious; the people flocked from curiosity to see him, but his entry formed a singular contrast to that of the Turkish troops into the different towns and villages which they had occupied for the first time. In the latter case, the reception was enthusiastic, the men lining the roads and saluting us with all the varieties of an Eastern welcome, and the women crowding the house-tops and making with their tongues that extraordinary noise which is meant to denote extreme pleasure; but with Ibrahim Pasha, there was a look of deep-rooted dislike on the faces of the people, which even their dread of him could not conceal. He, contrary to the Eastern fashion, saluted no one,—not one saluted him; certainly, as an inhabitant afterwards said to me, "Not a tongue nor a heart blessed him."

No. 194.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 22, 1841.

I INCLOSE a letter from Mr. Consul Moore, which I have just received. I have also received from the Consul accounts of violent outrages committed by the Albanian troops in Syria, and very great disorders by some Turkish troops also. I have sent the details to the Porte, and called upon it in the strongest manner to take immediate measures to remedy the evil. I suggested the recall from Syria of the Albanians without delay, saying that they were no longer necessary there, in consequence of the state of Ibrahim's army, and possibly of that Chief himself.

I have desired the Dragoman to tell the Minister, that if there was any delay in taking the necessary remedial measures, I should think it my duty to bring the matter before the Porte in a more public and more official manner, in order to save the Sultan and the general cause from the dangers to which all are exposed by the misconduct of the troops.

The Porte will see in the documents I have sent in, that the French Agents in Syria are active in endeavouring to take advantage of the misconduct of these troops, and to induce an insurrection against the Porte; and it will also see the account of the alarm existing even amongst the Turks, the natives at Beyrout.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

P.S.—Mr. Consul Moore will have transmitted to your Lordship accounts of the outrages I have mentioned in this despatch.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Mr. Consul Moore to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Private.)

My Lord,

Beyrout, February 11, 1841.

A REPORT has just reached me from Jaffa, that the malady from which Ibrahim Pasha is now suffering, and which appears to have assumed a very serious aspect, is the effect of poison administered to him by his Mamelukes. The rumour does not appear incredible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **N. MOORE.**

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

Therapia, February 23, 1841.

I TRANSMIT copy of one of General Jochmus's despatches to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, that I may insure its being known to your Lordship, as it affords information essential to a correct judgment of the affairs of this country.

It is shown in the despatch, that had it not been for the perseverance of General Jochmus in taking measures against Ibrahim Pasha in spite of the opposition that was made to them, it would have been easy for Ibrahim to remain with his army in Damascus until the arrangement with Mehemet Ali having been completed, he might have retreated with a great unbroken force to Egypt, instead of having his army defeated and nearly destroyed, and wholly demoralized.

Had Ibrahim remained at Damascus, the military question would have been undecided, and it would have been easy to assert, that victory might still have been on the side of the Pasha, had Mehemet Ali thought it politic to continue the war.

If Ibrahim had taken back to Egypt his large army unharmed, Mehemet Ali would possess a force that might encourage him to resist, and might possibly make him stronger than ever. The energy of General Jochmus has rendered all doubt and delusion on the subject of the military question impossible, and has shown, that under able command the Turkish troops are more than a match for the vaunted Egyptian army and General; his energy has also taken from Mehemet Ali the best means he could have to support resistance, and therefore has afforded the best ground for hoping he will submit.

All this good is due to the energy of General Jochmus. The honest praises General Jochmus gives to those who have done good service, are proofs of his honourable and just feelings; I hope your Lordship will look with favour to those he bestows upon Mr. Wood, and which that gentleman is admitted, by the unanimous voice of Austrian, Prussian, and Russian agents and officers, to have amply merited.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSOMBY.

Inclosure in No. 195.

[See Sub-Inclosures 28 and 34 in No. 174.]

Earl Granville to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 95.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 19, 1841.

I RECEIVED yesterday your Lordship's despatches Nos. 81, 82, and 83, with their important inclosures.

I have seen the King, the President of the Council, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, since they learnt that the draft of Convention between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, on the one part, and the Sublime Porte on the other, had been provisionally agreed to by the respective Plenipotentiaries of these Powers. The King and his Ministers expressed to me the greatest satisfaction at the prospect thus afforded of an end being speedily put to that state of agitation regarding the affairs of the East, which had during some years disquieted the world and placed in jeopardy the peace of Europe.

His Majesty said, that anxious as he had always been for the preservation of peace, he could not but rejoice at France having resumed her place in the Councils of the Great Powers of Europe, that he was most desirous that the cordial understanding which had subsisted between the French

and British Governments should be re-established, and trusted nothing would ever occur to interrupt the friendship between the two Countries.

M. Guizot read to me this morning the despatch he had received from Baron de Bourqueney, containing a report of the negotiations which had taken place in London relative to the Convention. M. de Bourqueney praises the conciliatory conduct of the Representatives of Austria and of Prussia, and renders full justice to the zealous exertions of your Lordship to overcome the reluctance felt by Baron Brunnow to put his initials to the draft of the Convention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Colonel Bridgeman to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

British Head-Quarters, Jaffa,

February 19, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the entire evacuation this day of the territories of his Imperial Highness the Sultan, by the Egyptian army.

As by the inclosed report of Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, who has this moment returned from Gaza,—having been employed there, since the cessation of hostilities, to see the evacuation duly carried into effect,—it appears that 34,000 men have either marched or embarked, the force with which Ibrahim Pasha reached that place must have amounted to 30,000 men, the original garrison having consisted of about 4,000. A column also under Solyman Pasha, which consisted of 3,000 or 4,000 men, marched to Egypt by the Desert road. The force, therefore, with which Ibrahim Pasha marched from Damascus, could not have been less than 40,000 men, as his losses in the Desert are known to have been very severe. On the 5th instant, (as I stated in my last despatch it was my intention to do,) I proceeded to Gaza, returning here on the 10th, having personally assured myself, in my interviews with Ibrahim Pasha, that he was no less anxious to hasten, than we were to induce, his departure. He had recovered the effects of his harassing retreat, and benefited by the prescriptions of Assistant-Surgeon Robertson, of Her Majesty's Ship "Benbow," who had been sent to Gaza, Ibrahim Pasha having expressed a wish to consult an English medical officer.

The Convention, I am happy to assure your Lordship, has been effected with much reciprocal courtesy and good faith, and both Turkish and Egyptian Authorities have evinced all possible reliance in British mediation, and acquiesced in all our proposals and arrangements. I feel particularly obliged to the Seraskier Pasha for his courtesy and attention to my suggestions. The discharge of the Syrian soldiers serving in the Egyptian army, was the only question upon which any difficulty arose. On the 25th of January, Captain Stewart being then at Gaza, found, that although no mention thereof was made in Commodore Sir Charles Napier's communication to Brigadier-General Michell, (a copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in my despatch of the 26th of January,) the Turkish Authorities as earnestly insisted on the point, as the Egyptians decidedly refused to concede it. That there might not, however, be any consequent delay in the evacuation, it was agreed that the Syrians should accompany their regiments to Egypt, and that (should it be hereafter so decided) they should all be sent back to this country free of expence; and the Seraskier and others of his Council assured me, that they considered this a better course than to risk an interruption of the evacuation, pending further negotiation or reference.

Captain Stewart, however, immediately despatched the "Hecate" steamer from Gaza to Alexandria, to communicate with Commodore Sir Charles Napier on the subject.

The "Stromboli" steamer returned thence forthwith, bringing intelligence that Commodore Napier was at Cairo, but that Captain Ward, commanding the "Hecate," had had an interview with Mehemet Ali, who

had assured him that it had been arranged and agreed five days previously, between himself, the Turkish Commissioner Mazloun Bey, and Commodore Napier, that the Syrian conscripts should remain with their regiments until their arrival in Egypt, when they would be exchanged for the Egyptians remaining in Candia, the Hedjaz, and at Constantinople. Thus the matter rested, but by a subsequent letter received from Commodore Napier by Captain Stewart, it appears that Mehemet Ali had misrepresented the facts, and that it had been decided to permit of the discharge of the Syrians at Gaza.

The Seraskier Pasha and the head-quarters of the Turkish army being already on their return to Beyrout, I have considered it advisable to remove thither the head-quarters of the British forces and the Royal Artillery,* &c., Captain Stewart having provided conveyance in Her Majesty's steam vessels "Vesuvius" and "Hecate." Their removal is indeed rendered the more necessary, some cases of plague having appeared amongst the Turkish troops of this garrison, the report of which your Lordship will find in the inclosed letter from the Inspector-General of Hospitals, Dr. Robertson, who arrived here from Acre on the 7th inst. At Tyre the plague has also broken out to some considerable extent, and sanitary regulations have been established there, as well as at this place. There was one case a short time ago at Sidon, which ended fatally, but the disease had not extended further. No British soldier has been attacked, and I have not failed to adopt every possible precaution for their security. The Egyptian army having thus finally retired, and the Seraskier Pasha, Lieutenant-General Jochmus, and others of the Turkish Authorities having quitted the town at the commencement of the week, my presence is no longer necessary, and I am at liberty to proceed on my overland journey to Beyrout. I shall however, before returning there, visit several places from as far south as the Dead Sea, that I may make myself acquainted with the features of the country, and personally ascertain the feelings and disposition of the inhabitants. I hope to reach Beyrout about the 5th of next month. A few more cases of plague have been reported, (in the hospital,) since the date of Dr. Robertson's letter, and in one or two instances amongst inhabitants of the town; but as all the British troops have embarked, my apprehensions on their account are at an end.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. H. BRIDGEMAN,
Colonel commanding the British Force in Syria.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

[See Sub-Inclosure 51 in No. 174.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Dr. Robertson to Colonel Bridgeman.

Sir,

Jaffa, February 13, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to report, that in obedience to your order, I this morning visited the Turkish Military Hospital, to inspect some cases of supposed plague. I found three men labouring under disease which I am decidedly of opinion is plague, and there are several others with suspicious symptoms. These men were admitted into hospital from this garrison; there is therefore reason to suppose that the disease may further develop itself among the troops in Jaffa.

To prevent if possible the extension of the complaint, I have recom-

* Royal Artillery:—2 Lieutenant-Colonels, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjeants, 54 Rank and File.
Royal Engineers and Royal Sappers and Miners:—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Subalterns, 1 Serjeant, 21 Rank and File.

mended that the Turkish troops be removed to a camp outside of the town.

I beg to suggest that it is advisable that the British troops should be confined to their quarters.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN ROBERTSON, M.D.
Deputy-Inspector-General.

No. 198.

Viscount Palmerston to Colonel Bridgeman.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 25, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 2, of the 26th of January, containing an account of the various operations which had been carried on from the 31st of December, the date of Brigadier-General Michell's last despatch, until the death of that officer; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve what was done during that interval.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 199.

Viscount Palmerston to Earl Granville.

(No. 91.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 26, 1841.

I INCLOSE to your Excellency, for your information, copies of a despatch and of its inclosures which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, containing the substance of the conditions to be imposed on Mehemet Ali, as they were read to the Representatives of the Four Powers on the 4th of February last.

Your Excellency will perceive from this despatch, that the arrangement relative to the succession of Mehemet Ali's descendants, as stated in the firman of the 13th of February, is in substance the same as the arrangement stated in the Memorandum of the 4th of February; and your Excellency will see, that this latter arrangement was unanimously agreed to by all those Four Representatives. From this it seems to be clear, that the arrangement stated in the firman could not have been intended as a mode of evading the fulfilment of the promise made to Mehemet Ali upon this subject, because it is impossible to suppose that the Four Representatives would have given their assent to such a scheme.

I have at the same time to add, that private accounts from Constantinople state, that the firmans of the 13th of February were drawn up by the Turkish Government in concert with the Austrian Internuncio, and without communication with the Four Representatives.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

(No. 75.)

Therapia, February 25, 1841.

I take the liberty to say that I suspect much the propositions to be made by Prince Metternich, will be far from being what is likely to be useful. He is extremely ignorant of the subject on which he seems to intend to decide; but I may be wrong in this, and it is better to wait for full information on the subject of his intentions: and I have now only to ask your Lordship, if it be the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government that I should accept whatever Baron de Stürmer proposes in the way of regulations to be proposed to the Porte for Syria, or should act upon information I receive, and bring forward the ideas that appear to me best for the security of the legal liberty of the people of that country.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 201.

(No. 76.)

Therapia, February 27, 1841.

I immediately informed the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs of the facts, and I at the same time acquainted him that two British ships of the line, the "Vanguard" and the "Hastings," were probably already in the port of that island: the above being intelligence I received the day before yesterday, from Captain Austin of Her Majesty's steam frigate "Cyclops," who arrived here bringing your Lordship's despatches.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSOMBY.

P. S.—The French steamer has not brought any news from Alexandria, nor have I heard of any.

(No. 78.)

Therapia, March 2, 1841.

He says, "Letters from Syria state that ammunition had been purchased there, and shipped on board a vessel which was to have left Syria, for Candia, on the 13th of February." He adds:—"It is reported that 700 men (Creto-Hellenes) are to come, and that General Gordon supplies the funds, assisted by some other Englishmen; and that affairs are certainly in a critical situation."

I have communicated to the Porte the information relating to the ammunition being shipped at Syra, and the supposed arrival in Candia of the Creto-Hellenes.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSOMBY.

No. 203.

(No. 83.)

Therapia, March 3, 1841.

I MENTIONED in a late despatch my having recommended to the Sublime Porte the removal of the Albanian troops from Syria, on account of their extreme misconduct there; I have now to report, that the Porte has determined to remove them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY**

No. 204.

(No. 84.)

Therapia, March 6, 1841.

I INCLOSE a Report to me from the Dragoman, in reply to my inquiries. I have seen two private letters that corroborate what is stated in the Report. One of the letters was written by the Swedish Consul to Count Königsmarck, the other by a man closely connected with Mehemet Ali, and addressed to one of the Diplomatic Corps.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure in No. 204.

M. F. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Péra, le 6 Mars, 1841.

LES nouvelles d'Alexandrie ne sont pas favorables. Muhib Effendi est resté à Alexandrie. Il a envoyé ici un long rapport et une lettre de Méhémet Ali au Grand Vizir. Ces deux pièces ont été envoyées au Sultan. Réchid m'a dit qu'aussitôt qu'il les aura, il m'en donnera des copies. Méhémet Ali a rejeté les principaux points: savoir, la succession au Pachalic doit se faire sur la base fixée que l'ainé de la famille sera le successeur, et cela peut être le frère, et non pas le fils, du Pacha décédé. Le même système est suivi dans la dynastie Ottomane.

Les institutions du Gulhané ne sont praticables en Egypte.

La quatrième partie des revenus est trop.

Point de Muhassil.

Toutes les stipulations entre la Porte et les Puissances étrangères ne sont pas applicables à l'Egypte.

Voilà, dit Réchid, à peu près ce que j'ai compris en donnant un coup d'œil sur la lettre de Méhémet Ali.

Je retourne à la Porte pour tâcher d'avoir la copie de cette lettre, qui jette une nouvelle phase sur l'affaire Turco-Egyptienne.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) F. PISANI.

No. 205.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 57.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 84, of the 6th of March, by which it appears that the Porte had received intelligence from Alexandria that Mehemet Ali objected to certain of the conditions attached to the firmans, issued by the Porte on the 13th of February, for regulating the future Government of Egypt.

With reference to the several objections which, according to M. Pisani's report to your Excellency, Mehemet Ali has offered to these conditions, I have to observe to your Excellency, that with regard to the order of succession in the Pashalic of Egypt, there seems no objection to the Porte fixing it now beforehand, subject to variation in cases of infancy or physical incapacity; but the principle should be maintained that the appointment of each successive Pasha shall be a separate act of the Sovereign authority of the Sultan, as stated in the Note addressed by the Plenipotentiaries of the Four Powers to Chekib Effendi, on the 30th of January.

As to the Hatti Sheriff of Gulhané, and the Treaties of the Porte with Foreign Powers, they must necessarily be carried into execution in Egypt. With regard to the amount of tribute to be hereafter paid by Mehemet Ali, that seems to be a matter of account, which must be determined according to the result of accurate statements of the net revenue of Egypt; of the aggregate cost of all the establishments, civil, military, and naval; and of the amount of surplus which is to be divided between the Sultan and the Pasha, in the shape of tribute for the former, and of means of maintenance for the latter.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 206.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 58. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 75, of the 25th of February, reporting what had passed between yourself and the Internuncio, on the subject of the regulations to be established by the Porte for the future Government of Syria, and stating that you had deemed it advisable, before taking any steps with the Porte on this matter, to obtain from Syria full information on which to form your opinion; and I have to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course you propose to pursue.

The first step towards forming or suggesting a plan for the future, is to obtain full and accurate information as to the past.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 207.

Viscount Palmerston to Colonel Bridgeman.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 13 of the 19th of February, reporting the complete evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian forces.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with great satisfaction this successful termination of the contest which has been carried on in that country; and they are fully sensible of the services which the officers and men of Her Majesty's forces, employed on shore, have rendered in the execution of the measures which have led to this result. Her Majesty's Government are especially pleased with the exertions of Her Majesty's officers to prevent any unnecessary loss of life which might have arisen from the mutual distrust of the contending parties; and they feel confident that the intercourse which Her Majesty's officers have had with the Turkish and Egyptian troops, will induce both parties to entertain the most favourable opinion of the British army.

I have to instruct you to acquaint the officers and men under your command, that Her Majesty's Government fully approve their conduct throughout the military operations which preceded the evacuation of Syria; and are equally persuaded that their conduct during the short time they may still remain in that country, will continue to be honourable to themselves and advantageous to the public service.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 208.

Viscount Palmerston to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

Foreign Office, March 30, 1841.

I HAVE had under my consideration the letter of your Lordships' Secretary of the 12th of March, inclosing copies of two despatches from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, dated the 28th of February and the 1st of March, the former reporting the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops.

Her Majesty's Government duly appreciate the zeal and activity

shown by the officers and men of Her Majesty's squadron on the coast of Syria during the operations which preceded the evacuation of Syria; and I would suggest to your Lordships, that Sir Robert Stopford should be directed to acquaint Captain Stewart of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," the commanding officer on the Syrian coast, that Her Majesty's Government approve his conduct during the late transactions, and have received with much satisfaction his report of the zealous exertions of the officers and men of Her Majesty's fleet serving under his immediate command.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 209.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 85.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 6, 1841.

I INCLOSE a letter I have received from Mr. Wood, reporting the steps taken to put an end to the evils occasioned by the Albanians in Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 209.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Beyrout, February 22, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that in consequence of the information transmitted by Mr. Moore to head-quarters at Jaffa of the proceedings of the Albanian troops on their march from Tripoli to Beyrout, which had forced the mountaineers to arm themselves at different points for the defence of their villages, and of the consequent alarm that it had created in the minds of the people, his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha and myself repaired to Beyrout to examine into the disorders committed by them, and punish the offenders.

His Excellency held a Council on the 19th instant, in the presence of the principal inhabitants of the town, and on the following day a meeting was held, to which were invited the Consuls of the Foreign Powers, who represented to his Excellency the bad impression the conduct of these disorderly troops would have in the country, if they were allowed to commit disorders with impunity.

Great credit is due to his Excellency for the promptitude with which he exerted himself to restore tranquillity, dispel the fears of the inhabitants, and restore confidence to them.

The Albanians will be gradually removed from Syria to Malatia,—a measure which will impress upon the minds of the people the anxiety of His Imperial Highness's Government to remove every cause of annoyance to them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 210.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 67.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1841.

IN reply to your despatch No. 85 of the 6th of March, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Wood, respecting the proceedings of the Albanian troops in Syria, from which it appears that the Commander of the Ottoman forces in that country intends gradually to remove those troops to Malatia; I have to state to your Excellency, that it appears to Her Majesty's Government to be highly desirable that these Albanian troops should be removed from Syria immediately, and not gradually.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 211.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 6, 1841.

I INCLOSE a report from Mr. Wood on the conduct of Ibrahim Pasha, and his refusal to deliver up the Syrian conscripts and the Turkish marines; and I also send the correspondence of Mehemed Rechid Pasha with Mr. Wood on that subject.

Your Lordship will see the management of affairs in Syria, which has led to the supply of force to Mehemet Ali, and which has, no doubt, mainly contributed to induce him to reject the conditions offered him by the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 40.)

My Lord,

*Head-Quarters, Jaffa,
February 14, 1841.*

IN inclosing a copy of Rechid Pasha's letter from Gaza, relative to the progressive evacuation of that place by the Egyptians, I have the honour to state, that from later news the total amount of troops still there does not exceed 4,000 in all, intended to be embarked the moment a sufficient number of vessels can be procured for that purpose. There are already thirteen ships of war at Gaza, and others are expected daily with a steamer for the conveyance of Ibrahim Pasha to Egypt.

I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in my letter of the 2nd instant, a copy of a written promise signed by the Seraskier Pasha, General Jochmus, and the Moustechar Effendi, pledging themselves to conform to the formal declaration given to the Egyptians by Captain Stewart, of Her Majesty's navy, and Colonel Alderson, that no further hostilities should be attempted against them by the Turkish army, provided that the total evacuation was effected within seven days from the day of its date, viz., the 30th of January.

Not only has this condition not been fulfilled up to the present date (as I anticipated it would not unless it suited the convenience of Ibrahim Pasha), but, moreover, he has refused to deliver up the Syrian conscripts, and the Turkish sailors and marines of the Turkish fleet that had been

embodied in the Syrio-Egyptian army. Rechid Pasha wrote to me on the subject from Gaza, and I submitted his letter to the Council; but as the error had been already committed of allowing the Egyptians to assemble at that place with their arms, contrary to the secret instructions of the Sublime Porte, and other engagements had been entered into both in Syria and in Egypt, by those who assumed an authority, I believe, they never possessed, the Council evinced no disposition to protest energetically against all the acts of the enemy that were at variance, or in direct opposition, with the stipulations agreed to at Alexandria between Mazloum Bey and Mehemet Ali, on the faithful execution of which depended solely the suspension of hostilities. The Syrian conscripts, therefore, and the Turkish sailors and marines, have been compelled to accompany the troops to Egypt.

These embarrassing questions might have been obviated at the commencement, had the Council followed the suggestion of taking possession of the pass of Beshairi, with 1,000 or 2,000 cavalry, which would have obliged Ibrahim Pasha to have continued his retreat to Egypt through the desert, or, if too weak to have made that attempt, to conform to our conditions previous to being allowed to proceed to Gaza.

All the deserters declare that he could not have remained in the desert two days more, and that the men were too disheartened and too weak for want of nourishment to have endeavoured to force the aforesaid pass. By this simple manœuvre, without the renewal of hostilities, or infringing in any manner the stipulations,—for the road through the desert would have been left open,—Ibrahim Pasha would have been compelled to accede to all our demands.

The total loss of Ibrahim Pasha is reported to amount to 63,500 men, 619 guns, and 148 field pieces: but as I am aware that very full reports on this subject will be transmitted to your Lordship by General Jochmus, I will not presume to enter on a subject on which I have not before me the requisite data to form an opinion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 211.

Mehemed Rechid Pasha to Mr. Wood.

Mon cher Mr. Wood,

Gaza, le 16 Zilhadjé, 1256.

QUE faites-vous à Jaffa? Rien à ce que je crois, tandis que nous travaillons toujours ici à faire évacuer la Syrie et nous avançons beaucoup dans notre œuvre, car avant hier est parti Kourchid Pacha avec les troupes irrégulières tant à pied qu'à cheval. Hier encore sont partis quelques chefs des troupes irrégulières. Aujourd'hui est parti Ménikli Ahmed Pacha avec trois régimens de cavalerie de la garde, quatre régimens d'infanterie de ligne, enfin trois régimens d'infanterie de la garde; en tout de cinq à sept mille hommes. Ces régimens de ligne doivent être embarqués: on attend les bâtimens. Dans trois ou quatre jours d'ici, j'espère vous envoyer la ruine des nouvelles,—l'entière évacuation de la Syrie,—et c'est moi qui aura l'honneur de vous donner cette nouvelle.

J'entends qu'on veut renvoyer les troupes de l'Emir Béchir; on ne fera pas mal, mais il faut les payer, car vous savez fort bien, mon cher Wood, que pas d'argent, pas de Suisse, et en variant le proverbe, pas d'argent, pas de Druses, et on pourra en avoir besoin quelquefois.

Je serais bien aise de savoir un peu de nouvelles de Jaffa.

Tout à vous,
(Signé) MEHEMED RECHID PACHA.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 211.

Mehemed Rechid Pasha to Mr. Wood.

Mon cher Mr. Wood,

Gaza, ce 4 Février, 1841.

VOUS me demandez pourquoi je ne vous ai pas écrit jusqu'à ce jour. Avant de vous écrire il faut comprendre ce qui se passe ici, afin de pouvoir vous dire quelque chose de raisonnable, car je ne comprends absolument rien de ce que nous faisons. Nous faisons exécuter ici une Convention que nous ne connaissons pas, car qui possède une copie de la Convention?—personne. Nous disons que Méhémet Ali s'est soumis sans condition, et son fils Ibrahim, à qui nous demandons de nous rendre les Syriens et les troupes de la flotte, nous répond qu'il n'a reçu aucun ordre de la part de son père concernant les Syriens et les matelots, et qu'il croit qu'on ne rendra ces troupes que quand ils recevront les Egyptiens qui sont en Candie, à la Mecque, &c.; et nous envoyons un vapeur à Alexandrie pour nous informer exactement sur l'état de cette question. Voilà que le vapeur Anglais nous rapporte qu'il a été convenu entre le Commodore Napier et Méhémet Ali, que pour ne pas démoraliser l'armée Egyptienne, qu'on rendra les Syriens et les matelots quand cette armée sera rendu en Egypte; notez bien que nous apprenons cela par la bouche de Méhémet Ali, car le Commodore se trouve en Egypte; et comme nous connaissons d'ancienne date que Méhémet Ali est un homme loyal, droit, et juste, nous croyons à ce qu'il dit et nous trouverons que c'est très-juste et très-raisonnable qu'il agisse ainsi, car vous sentez, mon cher Wood, que Méhémet Ali s'est soumis sans condition, et il est très-raisonnable et est très-conséquent qu'il fasse des conditions. D'un côté nous savons par les lettres de Mazloum Bey que Méhémet Ali devait écrire à son fils de nous rendre les Syriens et les troupes de la flotte dès qu'Ibrahim sera arrivé à Gaza. Ibrahim est arrivé dans ce dernier endroit depuis trois et quatre jours, et quand, en conséquence de la Convention, nous demandons de nous rendre les Syriens et les matelots, Ibrahim nous répond effrontément que c'est une pure invention de notre part, cette demande, et qu'il n'en est pas un seul mot dans les lettres qu'il reçoit de son honorable père. Vous sentez, mon cher Wood, que c'est la suite de la bonne foi de Méhémet Ali et d'Ibrahim. J'ai demandé à Ibrahim qu'il me donne par écrit qu'il n'a reçu aucun ordre de son père à l'égard des Syriens et des matelots; il me répond, par la nouvelle apportée par le vapeur Anglais, ce qui a été convenu entre son père et le Commodore Napier. Qui prendra la responsabilité de tout cela? c'est ce que je ne puis vous dire.

Un vapeur Anglais qui est venu dernièrement, nous apprend que les troupes d'Ibrahim peuvent s'embarquer à Gaza si elles le jugent à propos; que Méhémet Ali peut même envoyer sa flotte pour les embarquer: c'est un Article de la Convention qui nous est communiquée par Artin Bey, un homme d'importance, dit-on; comme si nous ne savions pas quelle influence peut avoir un Arménien dans pareille affaire. Enfin, tous les Articles de la Convention que nous voyons jusqu'à présent, sont très-favorables à Méhémet Ali, mais n'y a-t-il pas par hasard quelques Articles qui sont favorables à nos intérêts? c'est ce que je me demande.

Tous les jours de 2,000 à 2,500 hommes partent de Gaza, pour se rendre à El-Arish, mais ces troupes s'y arrêtent-elles, ou marchent-elles? C'est ce que nous ne savons pas. Il y a à Gaza actuellement de 10 à 12,000 hommes d'infanterie et de cavalerie.

Le médecin que vous avez envoyé de Jaffa dit qu'Ibrahim ne pourra se mettre en route que dans dix jours; je pense que l'entière évacuation de Gaza n'aura pas lieu avant ce tems.

Si vous trouvez l'occasion, vous ferez bien de communiquer cette lettre au Conseil, et faites-moi savoir, je vous prie, des nouvelles de Jaffa, le plutôt possible.

Tout à vous,
(Signé) MEHEMED RECHID PACHA.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in No. 211.

Mehemed Rechid Pasha to Mr. Wood.

Mon cher Mr. Wood,

Gaza, ce 5 Février, 1841.

VOILA la conséquence de ce que je vous écrivais hier, qui commence à se montrer aujourd'hui, — c'est qu'un vapeur Egyptien qui arrive d'Alexandrie nous apprend qu'une portion, ou toute l'armée Egyptienne, pourra s'embarquer dans un port de la Syrie, et cela d'après une Convention signée entre le Commodore et Boghos Bey: j'ai vu en effet une copie de cette Convention, certifiée par le Commodore. En conséquence de cette Convention, demain ou après demain treize bâtimens ou bien toute la Flotte Egyptienne viendront mouiller devant Gaza pour embarquer toute l'infanterie Egyptienne, avec armes et bagages.

Vous sentez, mon cher Wood, que comme vous et moi nous sommes très-sûrs de la bonne foi de Méhémet Ali, surtout certifié par Boghos Bey, je pense, et vous pensez j'espère comme moi, qu'il faut qu'il y soit un vapeur Anglais qui observe tous ces bâtimens.

Aucun mouvement des troupes n'a eu lieu aujourd'hui. Ibrahim Pacha se porte beaucoup mieux. Je ne vous écris davantage parce que je n'ai pas le tems: ne me laissez pas sans nouvelles de Jaffa.

Tout à vous,

(Signé)

MEHEMED RECHID PACHA.

P. S.—Je vous ai envoyé plusieurs Chéiks des Druses. J'espère que vous serez content de peu de choses que je fais ici.

No. 212.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 89.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 9, 1841.

I HAVE this day received the translation made by Mr. Frederick Pisani of the letter written by the Pasha of Egypt to the Grand Vizier on the subject of the firman conferring the hereditary Government of Egypt upon the family of Mehemet Ali, and of the conditions annexed by the Sultan to that grant; and I have the honour to inclose copy thereof.

I understand that Commodore Sir Charles Napier has made communications to Her Majesty's Government upon this subject, and I presume any observations of mine will be superfluous, until I can report what steps the Sublime Porte may think proper to take in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Mehemet Ali to the Grand Vizier.—(Communicated by Viscount Ponsonby, March 7, 1841.)

(Traduction.)

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre de Votre Altesse, par laquelle j'ai appris que mon empressement à prouver par des faits mon dévouement et ma soumission à celui qui est l'ombre de Dieu sur la terre, lui ayant été fort agréable, il a daigné me réintégrer dans le Gouvernement de l'Egypte avec hérédité, et que le firman Impérial qui renferme quelques conditions attachées à cette hérédité, et qui est orné en haut d'un rescrit Impérial, m'était envoyé par son Excellence Saïd Muhib Effendi, un des Principaux Employés de la Sublime Porte, et Ministre de la Justice. Conformément à mon devoir de sujet dévoué, j'ai ordonné la formation d'un cortège d'honneur, que j'ai envoyé à la rencontre de son Excellence;

j'ai fait tirer de nombreux coups de canon des batteries de terre et des bâtimens, et pavoiser les vaisseaux; réjouissances qui ont rempli de contentement et de joie le cœur des sujets de la Sublime Porte, qui ont adressé des prières au Très Haut pour la conservation des jours et la prospérité de Sa Majesté Impériale. Veuillez le Suprême Ordonnateur de l'univers faire en sorte que notre très Auguste, très Grand, et très Puissant Padichah et Maître répande à jamais ses faveurs sur les hommes, et brille dans le royaume de la justice et de l'équité.

Il est clair et évident que quelques efforts que nous fassions, mes fils, mes arrière-neveux, et moi, jusqu'à notre extinction, pour remplir les devoirs de notre dévouement, nous ne pourrions jamais témoigner comme il faut notre reconnaissance pour ces faveurs insignes. Cependant j'ai la confiance que Sa Hautesse, qui est pleine de générosité et de clémence, mue par son caractère magnanime, ne croira pas qu'il soit digne d'elle, que lorsque le Créateur du monde dispense les hommes de conditions dures, les Padichahs qui sont doués des qualités divines, attachent à leurs bienfaits et à leurs faveurs des conditions inexécutables. Je prends donc la liberté d'exposer ici mes motifs pour ne pas accepter certaines conditions.

Et en premier lieu, pour ce qui regarde l'hérédité, il est dit qu'elle appartiendra à ma postérité mâle, et que le Gouvernement de l'Egypte sera conféré à l'individu qui aura été préféré par le Sultan. Moi aussi j'ai la conviction qu'en effet ce qu'il y a de mieux, c'est que l'hérédité appartienne à la ligne masculine. Mais c'est au tems et à l'expérience seuls à faire voir lequel des enfans est le meilleur et le plus digne sujet; et ce point, c'est la famille qui se trouvera ici et les principaux employés de la famille qui le sauront. Il est donc clair que s'il est établi comme condition que l'hérédité passera de l'ainé à l'ainé, dans la ligne masculine, la famille existante et ses principaux employés feront la demande que l'ainé soit nommé, et Sa Hautesse daignera accueillir leur demande, et de cette manière le bon ordre et la tranquillité seront maintenus. Il est évident, d'ailleurs, que mue par des sentimens de clémence, Sa Hautesse veut le maintien du repos et de la tranquillité, et c'est pour cela que je prie que la question de l'hérédité soit arrangée comme il a été dit plus haut.

Vient ensuite l'exécution complète en Egypte des dispositions du Hatti Schérif de Gulhané, des lois de la Sublime Porte établies et à établir, et de tous les traités faits ou à faire avec les Puissances amies.

Tous les principes consacrés par le Hatti Schérif susdit, ainsi que la plus grande partie des conséquences qui en découlent, sont depuis plus de vingt ans mis en pratique ici. Seulement quelques unes de ces conséquences n'étant pas en harmonie avec les dispositions des pays et la nature des choses, sont nécessairement restées sans effet. Malgré cela, cependant, il ne se fait rien, grâce à Dieu, sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, qui ne soit conforme à l'équité et à la modération.

Venons maintenant à mes procédés envers les Puissances amies. Ces procédés ont, de tout tems, été basés sur leurs traités avec la Sublime Porte. Je n'ai pas moi, et je n'aurai pas, en mon particulier, des traités avec elles. En mon qualité de sujet, et de sujet soumis, il est de mon devoir de conformer ma conduite aux traités existant entre la Sublime Porte et ces Puissances.

Quant aux lois faites ou à être faites par la Sublime Porte pour l'administration intérieure des Etats de Sa Hautesse, je dirai relativement aux lois militaires et aux lois administratives ce qui suit. Votre Altesse sait que le système des troupes réglées a été introduit en Egypte il y a vingt ans. Or, à l'époque de l'introduction de ce système, j'ai fait traduire le code militaire Français, je l'ai fait rédiger par les Oulemas, adapter à la portée des indigènes, et à la nature de leurs dispositions, et concilier avec les prescriptions des lois saintes; et cela est devenu un livre légal entre les mains du public,—livre, dont les dispositions ont été à la longue adoptées peu à peu par tous; de manière qu'aujourd'hui tout le monde s'y conforme et s'y soumet. Votre Altesse voit donc sans doute qu'il y a de nombreux inconvéniens à abolir des lois solidement établies, pour

leur substituer de nouvelles. Je prie, par conséquent, qu'on laisse exister ce code tel qu'il est.

Les affaires de chaque pays dépendent de la nature de sa position. De là la nécessité naturelle d'établir des principes administratifs dans un pays suivant la nature des affaires qui lui sont propres; et il est clair qu'on ne peut appliquer à ce pays-ci des lois faites pour un autre pays. C'est là une règle naturelle, qui est observée même dans les Etats de l'Europe, où chaque partie d'un royaume a des lois analogues aux dispositions des habitants. Je prie donc que, prenant en considération ce que les règles d'une bonne administration et de la prudence exigent, on renonce à l'abrogation des réglemens existans.

Un autre point: savoir, la perception des dîmes, des autres droits, et des impôts, de la même manière qu'elle aura lieu dans les autres parties de l'Empire, et le recouvrement avant tout, et sans défalquer aucune dépense, pour le compte de la Sublime Porte, de la quatrième partie du montant annuel des droits de douane, des dîmes, des impôts, et de tous les revenus de l'Egypte. Quant au mode de perception, je dis; on n'ignore pas que les impôts arbitraires et les droits fixés sont dans chaque pays deux choses distinctes; et que cette distinction provient de ce qu'il faut établir les impôts suivant l'état de la population et la position des pays, et d'après l'état des affaires et des opérations des individus. C'est pour cela que tout système suivi dans les parties de l'Empire situées en Asie et en Europe ne saurait être mis en vigueur dans les parties de l'Empire situées en Afrique; aussi je prie d'être dispensé de cela aussi.

La condition de mettre à part la quatrième partie des revenus pour la Sublime Porte, avant que d'en avoir défalqué aucune dépense, est une condition à laquelle il est impossible de satisfaire; et la preuve en est que même les Grandes Puissances ne retirent pas, je ne dis pas un quart des revenus, mais même beaucoup moins que cela des nombreuses parties de leurs royaumes, qu'elles ont mises dans l'état le plus florissant possible, et dont les populations se trouvent dans une situation aisée et tranquille. J'ai recours à cet égard, comme en toute autre circonstance, à l'équité et à la faveur Souveraine de Sa Majesté Impériale, notre Seigneur et Maître, dont l'esprit est éclairé par des inspirations divines, et je la supplie de daigner user de clémence envers ces populations qui ont, pendant nombre d'années, tant souffert des événemens amenés par la force des choses, et qui méritent de jouir, sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, de repos et de tranquillité. Je supplie donc Sa Hautesse, que par un effet de sa bonté Souveraine, elle veuille protéger les habitants de ces contrées en les dispensant d'une condition extrêmement onéreuse qui redoublerait leurs souffrances.

Fort de ma sincérité et de mon dévouement, je pense qu'en égard aux circonstances actuelles, on voudra bien me faire grâce de droit à payer, et cela pour deux ou trois ans. En employant alors tous mes efforts pour faire fleurir cette belle possession de Sa Majesté Impériale, je tâcherai d'assurer le repos et la tranquillité des habitants, et de leur faire bénir le nom de Sa Hautesse le Sultan, notre Seigneur et Maître, et de rendre un service essentiel en faisant prospérer et fleurir une partie de ses Etats. Mais à quoi bon? La divergence d'opinions complique l'affaire. Quoiqu'il en soit, comptant sur ma grande franchise et sur mon parfait dévouement, je ne désespère point de voir enfin les opinions réunies à mon égard. En attendant, des conditions dont il s'agit, j'ai accepté les suivantes:

En tems de paix le nombre de troupes Egyptiennes n'excédera pas celui de 18,000 hommes.

Aucun nouveau bâtiment de guerre ne sera construit sans l'autorisation de Sa Hautesse.

La monnaie Impériale qui sera frappée en Egypte, sera pareille, sous les rapports du poid, de l'aloi et des formes, à la monnaie Impériale qui sera frappée à Constantinople.

Il sera défendu de faire des incursions comme cela se pratiquait autrefois de tems à autre, dans les villages de la Nigritie, dans lesquelles on enlevait des hommes et des femmes, et de jeunes gens dont on faisait des Eunuques, état qui est un obstacle à la procréation.

Les troupes de terre et de mer, soldats et officiers, seront habillés comme les troupes Impériales; leurs drapeaux seront tout à fait les mêmes.

Ces conditions seront exécutées conformément à la volonté Souveraine.

Il y a seulement ceci à dire quant à l'habillement; c'est que les habitants de ces pays-ci n'y sont pas accoutumés, et qu'on ne saurait faire un changement tout à coup. Il faut s'y prendre tout doucement, et les y accoutumer peu à peu. Mais, s'il plaît à Dieu, la volonté de Sa Hautesse sera faite à cet égard aussi.

En acceptant sans hésitation les conditions ci-dessus énumérées, j'ai donné une preuve suffisante de ma franchise et de la loyauté de mon dévouement. Ainsi, lorsque Votre Altesse aura pris connaissance de mes excuses pour ne pas accepter les autres conditions,—excuses que j'ai développées plus haut,—ce sera un acte de clémence digne de Sa Majesté Impériale que de me dispenser de ces conditions, ou de les modifier.

No. 213.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord Beauvale.

(No. 67.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1841.

HER Majesty's Government have this morning received from Lord Ponsonby the despatch of which I inclose a copy, transmitting a translation of the letter addressed by Mehemet Ali to the Grand Vizier, in reply to the firmans sent to Mehemet Ali announcing his restoration to the Pashalic of Egypt, with the additional privilege of hereditary succession for his descendants, and stating the conditions attached by the Sultan to those grants.

Her Majesty's Government regret to find the letter of Mehemet Ali so little in accordance with that unconditional submission which he had in the first instance announced; for, in fact, that letter, (if the true meaning of it is extracted from the involved and ambiguous phraseology in which it is wrapped up,) announces Mehemet Ali's refusal to accept the greater part of the conditions, including several of those which the Four Powers have considered indispensable.

For, first, with regard to the manner in which the hereditary succession is to be granted to his descendants, Mehemet Ali implies that it is to be the Pasha for the time being, who is to choose his own successor; a principle directly at variance with that laid down in the Collective Note of the 30th of January, and in the Note of the 13th of March.

It has always been the clear intention of the Four Powers, in advising the Sultan to grant hereditary succession to Mehemet's family, that this succession should in each case be an exercise of the Sovereign right of the Sultan; and the condition specially insisted upon by the Austrian Government, that no descendant of Mehemet Ali should become legally Pasha of Egypt, till he had received his investiture at Constantinople from the hands of the Sultan, was evidently intended to maintain that principle; and to reserve to the Sultan the power of rejecting any unfit person, by withholding from him the requisite investiture.

Therefore this demand of Mehemet Ali, that the members of his family, and the chief officers employed in Egypt, shall, on each vacancy, choose that one of his descendants whom they may think the best and most worthy, will probably have been rejected by the Porte as inconsistent with the advice and opinion of the Four Powers.

It is to be hoped, however, that the Sultan will have given a fair and reasonable explanation of that part of his firman which relates to this point, and will have declared that it is his intention, on every vacancy, to choose that one of Mehemet Ali's descendants, who, according to the European principle of primogeniture, would be the next in order of succession, unless such candidate should be disqualified by nonage or by

physical disability, and that in such case the next in order should be appointed instead of him.

It is for the interest of all parties that such an arrangement should be made, because, unless a deciding power be reserved to the Sultan, civil contests and struggles of conflicting claimants for the Pashalic, are certain to arise; and such disputes would, in the first place, disturb the tranquillity of Egypt; and, in the next place, lead to the interference of the Sultan by force of arms, and probably to the removal of Mehemet Ali's family altogether.

Mehemet Ali then goes on to say, that he declines carrying into execution in Egypt the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané; but it is to be remembered that this Hatti-Sheriff has already been proclaimed in Egypt by an officer sent thither for that purpose by the Porte; and as this Hatti-Sheriff forms part of the laws of the Empire, its strict execution in Egypt is declared by the Collective Note of the 30th of January, 1841, to be considered by the Four Powers as "indispensable."

The next passage in Mehemet's letter relates to the Treaties concluded by the Sultan with Foreign Powers; and this passage, though ambiguously worded, would seem to imply that Mehemet Ali acquiesces in the application of all those Treaties to Egypt; if it were not that in the concluding part of his letter, where he sums up the conditions which he means to accept, he makes no mention of this one. But, nevertheless, this condition has been declared by the Note of the 30th of January, to be "indispensable."

The letter then goes on to mention the general laws of the Turkish Empire, and divides them into two classes,—the first Military, the second Administrative.

With regard to the first class, Mehemet Ali says, that for some years past, a Military Code has been in force in Egypt, which is founded upon the Military Code of France, and that he wishes that this Code should continue in force. It must be owned that this request seems reasonable, and in all probability the Porte could not do better than to adopt and apply to the rest of the Sultan's army, the Military Code which has been established by Mehemet Ali for the troops in Egypt.

But Mehemet Ali also requests, that all his administrative laws may also remain in force; and this request is incompatible with the application of the whole of the Turkish laws to Egypt; and, moreover, the probability is, that the real object of this request is, that Mehemet Ali may thereby be enabled to maintain those abuses, and to continue those arbitrary and vexatious proceedings, by which he has inflicted so much poverty and misery upon the people of Egypt, and has succeeded in applying all the wealth and resources of the country to the prosecution of his military schemes.

It is likely that the Sultan will refuse to comply with this request as entirely incompatible with the unanimous opinion and advice of the Four Powers.

It is scarcely necessary to remark upon the fallacy of the argument in regard to this point, which Mehemet Ali founds upon the fact that many countries, which now are provinces of some powerful State, had laws and institutions of their own, before they were by conquest, or in consequence of marriages, or by other means, incorporated in the States to which they now belong, and have retained their ancient laws and institutions: for there can be no real analogy between the ancient laws of such provinces, and the arbitrary regulations which Mehemet Ali has established in Egypt during the last twenty years, without any rightful authority to do so.

With regard to imposts and taxes, Mehemet Ali declines to confine himself to collecting such as are legal and are established by the laws of the Empire, and he demands that he may continue to be allowed to collect extraordinary and arbitrary taxes from the people of Egypt. This demand, of course, the Sultan will at once and peremptorily reject; for there can be no just reason why the same system of taxation should not be applied to the African, as to the Asiatic and European provinces of the Turkish Empire; and the Collective Note and the Treaty of July declare,

that no taxes shall be levied in Egypt but those which are legally established; that is to say, established by the laws of the Empire.

With regard to the amount of the tribute to be paid to the Porte, Mehemet Ali states, that it is impossible for him to pay as much as one-fourth of the gross revenue of Egypt; and he urges as an argument in proof of that statement, that even powerful Governments do not draw from many portions of their territories so much as a fourth part of the gross revenue.

But this assertion is not borne out by any fact, because most Governments do draw from each of their provinces the whole of the revenue collected in that province: and they then pay out of the general treasury the charge of the civil and military establishments of the whole State; and it is not easy to say what portion of those aggregate expenses belong to each separate province.

One-fourth of the gross revenue of Egypt may or may not be more than Mehemet Ali ought to pay as tribute to the Sultan. If, indeed, the calculation made by M. Laurin is at all near the truth, that amount would not be too much; because M. Laurin estimates the gross revenue of Egypt, after all the laws and treaties of the Empire shall have been carried into execution in Egypt, at 400,000 purses; and he estimates the expense of the civil, military, and naval establishments, at 100,000 purses; so that if Mehemet Ali were to pay another 100,000 purses as tribute, he would still retain for his own personal expenses 200,000 purses, or a sum double the whole amount of the charge of all his establishments. Now even if the charge of the establishments of Egypt were twice as great as M. Laurin estimates them to be, still this arrangement would leave Mehemet Ali 100,000 purses, or half a million sterling for his own personal expenses; and surely such an arrangement cannot be considered as hard or unjust towards him.

But the ground upon which Mehemet Ali asks for a reduction of the amount of tribute, is not admissible. He founds his request upon an appeal, on behalf of the people of Egypt, to the Sultan's generosity, as if the amount of the payments to be made by that people were to depend, in any degree, upon the amount of Mehemet Ali's tribute. This is a palpable fallacy. The amount to be paid by the people of Egypt will be regulated by the laws which determine the taxes of the Empire; and those taxes will not vary, nor will their produce in Egypt be greater or smaller, whether the Sultan receives a fourth or only a smaller proportion of the whole amount, which the people of Egypt shall according to the law have paid.

Even if the Sultan shall, upon any other grounds, alter his arrangement about the tribute, it is manifest that he cannot be expected to do so in compliance with the particular reasons stated by Mehemet Ali.

But not content with asking for a diminution of tribute, Mehemet Ali announces his intention of not paying any tribute at all. For notwithstanding the Article in the Treaty which states, that he is not to make any deduction from the arrears of his tribute, on account of the expenses which he has incurred in maintaining the officers and crews of the Turkish fleet, while in the harbour of Alexandria, (a stipulation put into the Treaty, expressly at the suggestion of the Austrian Plenipotentiary), Mehemet Ali not only omits all mention of paying any arrears of tribute at all, but proposes to defer paying any prospective tribute for two or three years to come, which clearly means that he does not intend even to pay any tribute at all.

After stating what conditions he declines, he proceeds to specify those which he accepts, and they are the following:—

First. That in time of peace (by which, it is probable, he means, when he shall be at peace with the Sultan), the troops to be kept up in Egypt shall not exceed 18,000 men. This, as far as it goes, is satisfactory; for, although he will probably not observe the restriction, yet the violation of it would set the Sultan free with regard to his Pasha.

Secondly. That no new ships of war should be built in Egypt, without the previous consent of the Sultan. This is also a condition which will

become in the future important, although it is probable that Mehemet Ali has at present as many ships as he can be able to man.

Thirdly. That the coin in Egypt shall be the same as that in Constantinople. It is believed, that the Turkish coin at present is more debased than the Egyptian, and that Mehemet Ali would be no loser by calling in the coin of Egypt, and reissuing the same nominal amount in Turkish currency.

Fourthly. Mehemet engages to give up his African slave hunts. If this engagement shall be faithfully performed, it will certainly be a great advantage gained for the interests of humanity.

Fifthly. That the uniforms and flags, military and naval, in Egypt shall be assimilated to those of the rest of the Empire; with the reservation, however, that the change of uniform shall be introduced gradually, which of course means not at all.

But this reservation might well be agreed to by the Sultan; for if Her Majesty's Government have been rightly informed, the Sultan would do more wisely by giving to the rest of his army and navy the dress of the army and navy of Egypt, than by giving to the army and navy of Egypt the dress of the rest of his naval and military forces.

I have already observed, that in this enumeration of the conditions which he professes to accept, Mehemet Ali omits all mention of the condition that the Treaties concluded by the Sultan shall be carried into effect in Egypt.

The Austrian Government will see from the foregoing summary of Mehemet Ali's letter to the Grand Vizier, that Mehemet Ali declines accepting several of the most important of those stipulations which the Four Powers have either advised the Sultan to impose, or have declared to be in their opinion indispensable.

Upon the receipt of that letter this morning, I requested the Representatives of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, to come to me this afternoon, that we might read the letter and consider its contents, and accordingly those Plenipotentiaries came to me at four o'clock.

We all agreed, however, that, in the present state of the matter, there is nothing that could be necessary for us to do. We all felt that the Porte will probably have answered the letter of Mehemet Ali in conformity with the tenor of our Collective Note of the 30th of January to Chekib Effendi; and that, at all events, no step on our part could be expedient unless some communication on this subject should be made to us by the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 214.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 69.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 2, 1841.

Your despatch No. 89, transmitting a translation of Mehemet Ali's letter to the Grand Vizier in reply to the firmans of the 13th of February, has been this morning received at this Office. Her Majesty's Government regret that the Pasha's letter is so unsatisfactory, and so little in accordance with his previous professions of unconditional submission. In the present state of this matter I have no further instructions to give your Excellency, because it remains to be seen whether the Porte will have answered that letter at once or will have referred to the Conference at London for advice as to the answer to be given. If the Porte shall have applied to the Representatives of the Four Powers at Constantinople for counsel, those Representatives will have found in the Collective Note of the 30th of January a sufficient guide to direct them in advising the Porte; and they will afterwards have found laid down in the Note of the 13th of March the same principles which are stated in the Collective Note of the 30th of January.

I transmit to your Excellency a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, containing some observations which have suggested themselves upon Mehemet Ali's letter.

The Conference assembled to-day to take cognizance of the Pasha's letter, but we all agreed that no further step on our part is at present necessary or expedient on this matter.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 215.

The Marquess of Clanricarde to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, March 23, 1841.

I HAVE received by post your Lordship's despatch, No. 35, containing the Protocol signed at London on the 5th instant.

Count Nesselrode has been kind enough to inform me of further proceedings of the Conference that have been reported to him, and of the latest intelligence from Constantinople; viz., the firmans sent by the Divan to Alexandria, and the notes by which these documents were communicated to the Envoys of the Allied Powers, and to the Representatives of the other Governments at Constantinople; and the reply addressed by Lord Ponsonby to the Porte.

We know, here, that Prince Metternich is highly displeased at the conduct of the Internuncio; but we do not know what steps His Highness has taken in consequence.

Count Nesselrode tells me that he has given no new instructions to M. Titow, but that he has repeated those he originally gave; namely, to be guided by the Treaty of July, and the proceedings of the Conference in London. His Excellency says, Baron Brunnow, who was in the entire confidence of the Emperor, was sent to that Conference expressly to avoid the confusion that might arise by giving instructions to two different Ministers acting apart, and under different circumstances. I believe, however, that the Imperial Government are not well pleased with M. Titow's conduct; but Count Nesselrode, who is connected with, and likes M. Titow, has avoided giving me any opinion upon it. Viscount Ponsonby's Note appears to Count Nesselrode to be very ably written, as it removes from him all responsibility, without expressing any opinion whatever; so much so indeed, said Count Nesselrode, that one is at a loss to guess whether Lord Ponsonby disapproves of the firmans as being too favourable or too unfavourable to the Pasha.

I must say that I was rather struck by Count Nesselrode's not appearing alarmed, or much displeased at the confusion and difficulties that may arise from the different views taken at Constantinople and at London, of the basis of the final arrangement between the Sultan and his vassal, or at the certainty (or nearly so) that Mehemet Ali will not accept the conditions which the Porte has attempted to impose upon him. It appears that the Russian Government are solely occupied by their anxiety to hear the result of the proposition made to France to join in a Convention relating only to the Turkish Straits, and by their satisfaction at the manner in which the subjects for a possible Treaty suggested by M. Bourqueney were received and discussed by your Lordship.

Her Majesty's Government may rely upon it, that the Emperor never was more disposed than at present to cement his alliance with England, or less inclined to listen to those who would persuade him to cultivate an intimacy and friendship with the French nation.

As to the supposed endeavours of M. Titow to deprive Rechid Pasha of his office and power, your Lordship will have seen a letter which that Minister wrote to Baron Brunnow, evincing a strong desire that Rechid

Pasha should continue in authority; and the Imperial Government are gratified to find that Her Majesty's Government gave no credence to the insinuations made thereupon at Paris.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLANRICARDE.

No. 216.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 99.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 17, 1841.

M. TITOW has communicated to me instructions he received from Count Nesselrode on the subject of Syria, and which have been made known to your Lordship, and approved of by you. M. Titow is anxious to engage the Ottoman Government to take immediate measures to give satisfaction to the Syrians, but agrees with me in the propriety of our having correct information respecting the old and present state of things in Syria, and he is therefore content that any arrangements to be now made by the Sublime Porte, shall be only temporary and subject to revision. M. Titow also agrees with me that it is particularly necessary the Porte should faithfully perform the promises Rechid Pasha authorized Mr. Wood to make to the Syrians; and he therefore thinks it right that Mr. Wood should be called here to give information on that point, as well as to describe the wishes, wants, and rights of the Syrians, and afford all the notices he can of the best means for combining the measures useful and desirable to the people, with the security of the rights and power of the Ottoman Government.

I have written to Mr. Wood with the consent of Rechid Pasha, and directed him to come to Constantinople.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 217.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 72.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 8, 1841.

IN reply to your despatch, No. 99, of the 17th of March, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I approve of your having directed Mr. Wood to return to Constantinople, in order to furnish such information as he may have acquired in Syria, as to the best means of placing the relations between the Syrians and the Porte on a satisfactory footing.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 218.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 101.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 17, 1841.

YESTERDAY I had the honour of conferring with my Colleagues of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, upon the subject of the conduct to be pursued in consequence of the late proceedings of Mehemet Ali.

We had under our cognizance the Official Note from the Sublime Porte, of which I inclose a copy. The subject was long debated and carefully examined by us, and it was determined that each of us should reply to the above-mentioned Official Note in the manner he considered most *à propos*. The Internuncio seemed to think that he ought to advise the Sublime Porte to make a change in the mode fixed by the Sultan's firman for the regulation of the succession of the family of Mehemet Ali to the hereditary Government of Egypt. It was objected, that by so doing, the Sublime Porte would enter into negotiation with Mehemet Ali; that the submission of Mehemet Ali is the basis upon which all has been rested; that it is difficult, if not impossible, to consider his last act otherwise than as a denial of submission; that to negotiate with him is to disregard the basis of all our acts, as it has been prescribed by our Courts; and that the alteration proposed to be made by the Internuncio would be negotiation, and negotiation would *pro tanto* defeat the assertion of Sovereignty made by the firman, and be also in opposition to the declaration made by the Conference at London, in its Note addressed to Chekib Effendi, dated 30th of January. I cannot tell your Lordship what the Internuncio determined to do.

The Count Königsmarck did not state what course he should recommend to the Sublime Porte to follow.

M. Titow said, he should answer, that he would report to his Government the state of affairs, and wait for instructions.

I said I should advise the Porte to remain passive, and to ask its Allies for advice.

I have to state to your Lordship that the Internuncio acquainted us with the information he had just received from Vienna of the probability that the Conference at London was dissolved, and that, if not already separated, it would certainly be so immediately. This intelligence necessarily influenced our conduct, because it would have been useless for the Porte to apply to the Conference after its extinction, and wrong on our part to advise it.

There was question as to the continued stay of the Ottoman Envoy at Alexandria if the Porte should decide for applying to its Allies for advice before it took any steps. M. Titow thought that to recall him might have the appearance of a manifestation of hostility. I concurred with him, and I suggested that means might be taken to put the Envoy privately in mind that his instructions directed him to leave Alexandria after the lapse of a specified period of time, and that he would do well to observe these. This, I think, cannot be an act subject to the interpretation that might be given to an order to him to leave Alexandria, issued *pro re nata*.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Official Note from Rechid Pasha to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Traduction.)

COPIE de la dépêche reçue par la Sublime Porte de la part de Son Altesse Méhémet Ali Pacha, et copie de la dépêche détaillée qu'elle a reçue de la part de son Excellence Saïd Muhib Effendi, ont été communiquées à votre Excellence, par lesquelles elle a vu que Méhémet Ali Pacha a rejeté quelques unes des conditions qui lui avaient été faites et qui sont connues. L'hésitation de Méhémet Ali Pacha à accepter ces conditions modérées n'est guères compatible avec la qualité de sujet, et il n'est pas moins clair, qu'accorder ces demandes telles qu'il les fait, c'est une chose aussi nuisible que contraire aux droits de Souveraineté de Sa Hautesse.

C'est pourquoi Sa Hautesse veut que nous demandions à votre Excellence quelle est votre manière de voir sur la conduite que la Sublime

Porte doit tenir, et nous vous prions, en conséquence, de vouloir bien nous faire connaître sans délai vos plans et vos opinions amicales sur cette affaire.

(L.S.) MUSTAPHA RECHID.

No. 219.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston. — (Received April 7.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed to the Sublime Porte by Muhib Effendi, reporting what took place at several interviews he had with Mehemet Ali.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Said Muhib Effendi to the Sublime Porte.

(Traduction.)

SAMEDI, le septième jour de mon départ de Constantinople, vers les deux* heures, j'entrais, après une traversée heureuse, dans le port d'Alexandrie, où le paquebot jeta l'ancre.

Zéki Effendi vint me saluer et me complimenter sur mon arrivée, au nom du Gouverneur d'Egypte, Son Altesse Méhémet Ali Pacha.

Nous nous préparions à aller à terre ensemble, lorsqu'une autre personne est venue de la part de Son Altesse pour demander si le firman Impérial devait être lu ici ou à Caire. Je répondis que le firman devait être lu d'abord ici, et puis au Caire, et qu'ensuite il fallait qu'il fût porté à la connaissance du public. En conséquence de ma réponse Zéki Effendi me dit d'attendre une ou deux heures, afin que l'on préparât la troupe et la musique; et il nous quitta pour retourner à terre, en me disant qu'il allait revenir pour m'informer de ce qu'il y avait à faire.

Vers les cinq heures, Zéki Effendi revint avec la felouque de Son Altesse; il me dit que les troupes et la musique étaient prêtes; que Son Altesse m'attendait, et que nous pouvions partir. Je lui demandais si le firman allait être lu. Il répondit non, il faut que Son Altesse le voye d'abord. J'allais donc à terre dans la felouque de Son Altesse, accompagné de mon adjoint Shéfiq Bey. Lorsque je débarquais à l'échelle, les bâtimens que Son Altesse possède sous les auspices du Sultan, et qui se trouvaient dans le port, furent pavoisés; l'on tira des coups de canon en signe de joie et de reconnaissance; et une compagnie de troupes de marine, dont les officiers étaient en grande tenue, vint, musique en tête, à ma rencontre.

Enfin, lorsque je me présentais chez le Pacha, Son Altesse, après une conversation indifférente, m'ayant demandé le firman dont j'étais porteur, je le lui remis très-respectueusement.

Son Altesse me fit lire d'abord la lettre du Grand Vizir, et puis le firman relatif à l'hérédité; après quoi, elle me dit: "La publication des conditions que ce firman renferme doit, dans un pays tel que celui-ci, causer des désordres." Je lui répondis, que loin que la publication de ce firman puisse donner lieu à des désordres, il est en lui-même une faveur éclatante dont tout le peuple et ceux qui l'entendent, auront à s'enorgueillir; et conformément à mes instructions, je fis tout l'usage que je

* A huit heures à peu près du matin.

puis de ma langue et de mon jugement pour l'amener à de meilleurs sentimens, en l'y disposant par des propos encourageants et par les menaces nécessaires; et je lui représentai que la nature de cette affaire exigeait que le firman fût lu dans une assemblée solennelle, et porté à la connaissance du public. Le Pacha répliqua: "Que Dieu conserve notre Padichah et bienfaiteur! je suis l'esclave du Sultan. Je ne saurais lui témoigner assez de reconnaissance pour la faveur dont je viens d'être l'objet, et il est de mon devoir d'exécuter promptement tous ses ordres; mais comme la lecture en public de ce firman, dans ce moment-ci, présente quelques inconvéniens, nous en parlerons plus tard, et nous verrons ce qu'il y aura à faire." Je lui dis alors que les conditions dont il s'agit ont été établies avec le concours des Hautes Cours Alliées, que la volonté de Sa Hautesse à cet égard est positive, et que l'hérédité tient à ces conditions. Mais comme Son Altesse avait dit que nous verrons tout cela après, Sami Bey, qui était aussi présent, prenant la parole: "L'Effendi," dit-il, "est fatigué du voyage; que Votre Altesse lui permette d'aller reposer." A ces mots, la séance fut levée, et je me rendis à la maison de Sami Bey, qui m'avait été destinée.

Lundi je me rendis de nouveau auprès du Pacha. "Comment vous portez-vous, mon fils?" demanda Son Altesse; "Etes-vous bien? Avez-vous reposé?" A ces questions je répondis: "Je suis à mon aise, parceque, grâce à Dieu, les démêlés et les différends qui ont pendant quelque tems traîné en longueur, venant de cesser sous les auspices de Sa Majesté Impériale, il n'y a plus aucune scission, aucune division. Cependant, les propos que Votre Altesse a tenus l'autre jour tendant à faire voir que quelques unes des conditions dont il s'agit ne sauraient vous convenir, et qu'il n'est pas convenable de lire publiquement le Firman Impérial, m'ont extrêmement affligé."

"Mon fils," répliqua le Pacha, "la lecture publique du firman est sujette à une foule d'inconvéniens. En premier lieu, je demande; comment peut-on gouverner l'Egypte avec ce nombre de troupes?" "Grâce à Dieu, il n'y a plus en Egypte des troubles d'aucune espèce; et ce nombre de troupes a été jugé suffisant pour la défense du pays." "Fort bien, fort bien! mais ce pays-ci est la clef de l'Afrique, la clef même, peut-être, de Constantinople. Et quoiqu'il n'y ait pas de troubles ici, il est de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte qu'il y ait beaucoup de troupes en Egypte; car, lorsqu'on en aura besoin, comme en cas d'une guerre, je pourrais envoyer la quantité de troupes qu'on me demandera et qu'on m'ordonnera d'envoyer." "Il faut effectivement que Votre Altesse rende ces sortes de services à la Sublime Porte; et c'est ce que nous espérons." "Mais supposé même, Dieu garde, que quelque événement ait lieu en Afrique; eh bien?" "Alors, aussitôt qu'on l'aura fait connaître à la Sublime Porte, et qu'on aura demandé son autorisation pour lever le nombre de nouvelles troupes qui sera jugé nécessaire, nul doute que la Sublime Porte n'accorde cette permission, et n'y donne son assistance nécessaire, d'après l'exigence du cas. Le nombre de troupes, tel qu'il vient d'être fixé, est suffisant." "Puisque la Sublime Porte doit m'accorder l'autorisation que je lui demanderai au besoin, et qu'elle m'y donnera son assistance, ce que vous dites est raisonnable; et le nombre fixé à présent paraît, en effet, suffisant pour la défense de la Province d'Egypte. Ainsi, je séparerai des troupes qui arrivent de la Syrie, et de celles qui se trouvent ici, les hommes peu propres au service; et mettant en exécution la volonté du Sultan à cet égard, je n'emploierai pas plus de troupes que le nombre qui a été fixé; et toutes les fois qu'on aura besoin de troupes, et qu'on m'en demandera, j'aurai soin de les équiper, et je m'empresserai de les expédier à tel endroit qu'on voudra."

Tel est l'engagement pris par Son Altesse. Quant à la flotte existante en Egypte, attendu qu'elle fait partie de la flotte Impériale, le Pacha a donné sa parole positive que, comme pour les troupes de terre, toutes les fois que la Sublime Porte demandera un tel nombre de bâtimens, ou toute la flotte, il ne manquera pas d'expédier sans aucun délai tel nombre de bâtimens qu'on lui aura demandé, et même toute la flotte, au grand complet; qu'il renonce à faire construire un plus grand nombre de bâtimens; et qu'il ne fera pas construire un nouveau bâtiment pour remplacer celui

qui ne sera pas en état de tenir la mer, qu'après en avoir obtenu la permission de la Sublime Porte.

Le Pacha s'engagea aussi de se conformer, par rapport à la monnaie, à ce qui est prescrit par le Firman, et à faire battre des monnaies sur les modèles qui lui seront envoyés de l'Hôtel Impérial des monnaies.

Le Pacha demanda, "Comment peut-on changer les soldats une fois chaque cinq ans, ainsi qu'il est dit dans le firman, et dans le code des réglemens Impériaux?" "Considérant que les soldats formant les troupes réglées Impériales, se trouvent depuis longtemps éloignés de leur pays natal, et de leurs familles, et que quelques fois leurs affaires sont en souffrance, il vient d'être inséré dans le code des réglemens par ordre de Sa Hautesse, qu'au bout de cinq ans on changera, par compassion, ceux des soldats qui désirent être remplacés. Or, puisque l'Egypte fait partie des Etats de Sa Hautesse, que ses habitans sont les sujets de la Sublime Porte, et que les troupes Egyptiennes font partie des armées réglées Impériales, Votre Altesse doit mettre ses soins à agir à ce sujet d'après la volonté Souveraine." "Il faut, il est vrai, que les troupes Egyptiennes servent aussi d'après le code des réglemens Impériaux. Mais les Arabes ne ressemblent point au peuple de la Roumélie. Il faut à un soldat pour le moins cinq ans pour apprendre à faire l'exercice du pas: cela étant, si au bout de chaque cinq ans il faut les remplacer par d'autres, ce ne serait plus des troupes réglées, mais tout uniment des troupes irrégulières qu'on aurait. Vous le savez vous-même; le naturel des hommes d'un pays de la Roumélie diffère de celui des hommes d'un autre pays. Les soldats de ces contrées-ci doivent être remplacés une fois les quinze ans; parceque, supposé qu'on les remplace chaque cinq ans, alors et l'agriculture en souffrira et les troupes ne seront pas des troupes vraiment réglées. Enfin, je connais moi l'état des choses de ce pays-ci parfaitement bien, et je vous dis la vérité toute nue. Je suis tout-à-fait excusable en cela, et je suis obligé de prier qu'on me favorise sur ce point. Et puis le firman Impérial dit que le Gouverneur d'Egypte ne doit pas conférer un grade supérieur à celui de Col-Aghassi*. Or, j'étais autorisé auparavant à donner même le grade de Général de Brigade. Comment puis-je faire ce que l'on propose maintenant, tandis que jusqu'ici j'ai donné des grades militaires sans avoir à en demander l'autorisation?"

Le Pacha ayant parlé dans ce sens-là, je lui répondis de la manière suivante: "Effectivement vous étiez autorisé par le passé à donner des grades militaires, mais le système suivi alors était bon pour ces tems-là. A présent, Dieu en soit loué, tout a changé, et même les Mouchirs et les Vizirs, qui sont dans la nécessité d'avoir des troupes réglées Impériales auprès d'eux, ne peuvent pas conférer un grade au-dessus de Col-Aghassi, qu'au préalable ils n'en aient obtenu l'autorisation. Or, vos troupes étant considérées comme des troupes réglées Impériales, il est flatteur pour Votre Altesse de demander l'autorisation de donner des rangs militaires." "Eh, bien, mon fils, ce point est tout-à-fait insignifiant pour la Sublime Porte. Les serviteurs jouissent, suivant les mérites, de différens degrés de faveurs auprès de leurs maîtres. Ne pas être à présent autorisé à faire ce que j'étais autorisé à faire autrefois, c'est une chose qui me fera du tort. Je dois donc indispensablement demander et prier d'avoir l'autorisation que j'ai eu jusqu'ici." "Monseigneur, pourquoi dites-vous que ce point ne signifie rien? Les troupes réglées sont, pour ainsi dire, l'âme de la Sublime Porte, et c'est un devoir pour nous tous de maintenir tous les réglemens qui les concernent." "Oui, sans doute c'est un devoir pour nous tous de maintenir les réglemens qui les concernent; mais moi je ne parle que de l'autorisation dont je dois être revêtu comme je l'ai déjà dit."

C'est en vain que j'ai tant raisonné sur ce point; tous les moyens de persuasion ont échoué; c'est-à-dire, qu'il ne m'a pas été possible de le faire accéder à la proposition.

Je parlais de l'envoi à Constantinople de l'un de ses fils. "Ce sera très bien," dit le Pacha, "mais lequel enverrais-je? Enverrais-je mon

* Grade immédiatement au-dessous de celui de Chef de Bataillon.

petit-fils Abbas Pacha?" A ces questions je répondis; "Il vaut mieux que Votre Altesse envoie un de ses fils qui présenterait ses respects à Sa Majesté Impériale, et qui ferait la connaissance des Ministres de la Sublime Porte; ce qui fera plaisir à Sa Hautesse." "Cela étant, comme mon fils Saïd Bey est un jeune homme lettré, qui parle Persan, Arabe, Français, et Anglais, et qui est un marin instruit, c'est lui que j'enverrai au printemps prochain, s'il plaît à Dieu, à Constantinople, accompagné de Sami Bey."

"Le firman qui parle de l'hérédité," ajouta le Pacha, "dit que lorsque, par la volonté de Dieu, il y aura vacance dans le Gouvernement d'Egypte, la Sublime Porte élira un des membres de ma famille, et l'appellera à Constantinople afin qu'il y soit nommé Gouverneur de la province d'Egypte. Mais il est évident qu'une pareille disposition fera naître des dissensions, et peut-être même une guerre entre les membres de ma famille. Je ne veux pas moi, étant en vie, exposer ma famille à de pareils malheurs, parcequ'en effet, si on allait nommer Gouverneur le cadet, tandis que l'aîné existe, cela ferait naître entre eux une froideur qui évidemment dégènerait, à la longue, en dissensions et en troubles."

"Dieu ayant donné à chaque homme un degré plus ou moins grand d'esprit et de jugement, il y aura dans chaque membre de votre famille aussi plus ou moins de capacité; or, si l'on donne le Gouvernement de l'Egypte à celui des membres de la famille qui montre les meilleures dispositions à bien gouverner, et celui-ci gouverne avec cette sagesse et ce jugement dont il est doué, voilà le repos et la tranquillité de votre famille assurés. La Sublime Porte y a réfléchi plus que Votre Altesse, et à cet égard aussi la volonté Souveraine est telle que je le dis." "Non, non, le grand n'obéira pas au petit; il y aura des dissensions et des querelles parmi les membres de la famille qui finiront tous par être dispersés; ce qui est aussi clair que le jour. Quand Dieu permettra qu'il y ait vacance, comment pourra-t-on savoir d'abord lequel de membres de ma famille est le plus capable de gouverner?" "Monseigneur, votre famille n'est pas à comparer à d'autres familles; elle est connue, célèbre, et par conséquent chacun de ses membres est bien connu à la Sublime Porte, ainsi qu'à leurs Excellences les Ministres vos confrères."

Voilà ce que je répondis au Pacha, mais Son Altesse répliqua: "Il n'est pas possible de voir tout d'abord lequel des membres de la famille est le plus capable. En un mot, dorénavant, lorsqu'avec la permission du Ciel, la place de Gouverneur sera devenue vacante, l'aîné de ma famille, qui sera jugé capable d'être Gouverneur, doit être proposé dans une pétition de la part de toute la notabilité de l'Egypte, des Oulemas, et des personnes qui se trouvent dans ma famille et dans mon département; et après cela la Sublime Porte devra accueillir leur demande, accorder le Gouvernement à celui-là, et l'appeler aussi à Constantinople pour cela." Dieu sait si j'ai employé tous les raisonnemens possibles pour le convaincre; mais le Pacha ne fit que répéter ces propres argumens. Bref, il finit par me dire qu'il ne peut pas, lui, de son vivant, laisser sa famille en danger, et qu'il priera Sa Hautesse de lui accorder sa demande.

Lorsque je parlais au Pacha de l'envoi au trésor Impérial du quart des revenus de l'Egypte ainsi que cela est expressément dit dans le firman sur l'hérédité, Son Altesse répondit: "Les revenus fixes de l'Egypte ne peuvent pas faire face aux dépenses ordinaires. Si l'on demande comment donc se payent tant de dépenses, je réponds qu'elles se payent des produits des fermes que moi, mes fils, et mes petits fils nous possédons sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, et des produits du commerce. Je ne sais ce qu'il y a à dire à cela." "Si l'on envoie au trésor Impérial le quart des revenus de l'Egypte, le tiers et les deux tiers du reste suffisent certainement à faire face aux dépenses de Votre Altesse, et il y en a même de trop peut-être, parceque vous avez, d'après la volonté Souveraine, réduit l'armée, et que vous ne devez plus faire construire de nouveaux bâtimens de guerre." "Mon fils, vous me comprenez fort bien; mais je crois que vous voulez me pousser à bout." "Dieu m'en préserve! Et pourquoi me prêtez-vous de mauvaises intentions? Le paiement à la Sublime Porte du quart des revenus est une condition attachée à l'hérédité, un point arrêté de commun accord avec les Hautes Cours

Alliées, et la volonté de Sa Hautesse à cet égard est positive. Ainsi, c'est dans vos propres intérêts, et dans ceux de votre famille que je tiens ce langage. Rejeter cette condition, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise ! ou une seule des autres conditions, c'est donner lieu à une nouvelle effusion de sang, qui est une chose terrible. Moi je parle à Votre Altesse sincèrement. Elle agira comme elle jugera à propos." "Ce n'est pas que je veuille montrer de l'hésitation ou de l'opposition. Les Hautes Puissances Alliées, nos amies, ont de la discrétion ; elles savent ce que c'est que l'équité ; elles n'emploient pas la contrainte là où il serait injuste de la faire. Elles comprendront, en jugeant la chose équitablement, que lorsque la quatrième partie des revenus sort d'un pays, ce pays se ruine. Cette province est une possession de la Sublime Porte ; qu'elle soit florissante, ou ruinée, l'un et l'autre de ces états touchent de près cet Empire. Enfin, cette condition est tout-à-fait au-dessus de mes forces, c'est une condition impossible." "Monseigneur, la Sublime Porte n'a jusqu'à présent donné l'hérédité à aucun de ses serviteurs. C'est donc, pour ainsi dire, un devoir pour Votre Altesse d'offrir tous les ans, en vous en glorifiant, le quart des revenus de ce pays-ci au trésor Impérial, ainsi que Sa Hautesse le veut, en témoignage de votre reconnaissance pour cette faveur ; le Sultan a droit à cela." "Et moi et le pays nous appartenons au Sultan : je ne refuse rien ; mais je ne vois aucune modération en cela pour que je puisse m'y montrer disposé. Et quand même, par supposition, j'obéissais aux ordres Souverains, cet argent ne pourra pas être payé, et vous direz, voyez-vous, Méhémet Ali se met de nouveau sur la voie des oppositions. A la vérité, je ne peux dire, oui ; je ferai une chose qui est hors de mon pouvoir. Je fais connaître la vérité du fait, et je prie d'être favorisé à cet égard de la part de Sa Hautesse." "Mais, Monseigneur, les revenus de la province d'Egypte sont connus par tout le monde, et la demande d'un quart de ces revenus est une demande modérée. Votre Altesse n'aura plus désormais de trop grandes dépenses à faire ; mais supposons même que quelque chose exigeant de grandes dépenses survienne, Votre Altesse pourra s'entendre là-dessus avec la Sublime Porte."

Dans les trois ou quatre entrevues que j'eus avec le Pacha, je tâchai de le persuader qu'il serait fort à propos qu'il prît l'engagement dont il s'agit, parcequ'il aurait ainsi rendu service au trésor Impérial ; ce qui aurait été un sujet de contentement pour tous les Ministres de la Sublime Porte ; et je lui dis bien des choses dans ce but. Mais loin de m'écouter, il répéta les mêmes objections, et il y insista. Je lui dis de nouveau : "Monseigneur, j'ai osé vous importuner en vous disant tant de choses pour votre propre bien et pour celui de votre famille ; tout cela n'a abouti à rien. Eh bien ! que Votre Altesse fasse connaître précisément ses intentions et ses desirs à la Sublime Porte, et nous verrons quelle réponse viendra." "Je suis le serviteur et l'esclave du Sultan notre maître. J'écrirai la vérité toute pure, que j'accompagnerai de ma prière ; leurs Excellences les Ministres de la Sublime Porte savent ce que c'est que la justice."

Comme après tout cela, tout ce que j'aurais dit n'aurait servi à rien, je pris le parti de me taire, et de lever la séance.

Lorsque nous mîmes en avant les questions de l'habillement, des pavillons des bâtimens, des drapeaux des troupes, et d'autres réglemens, "Mais, oh mon cher," dit le Pacha, "les uniformes des troupes de quelques Puissances diffèrent les uns des autres. Il y a dans les troupes Russes trois sortes d'uniforme : quel mal y a-t-il en cela ? Chaque Puissance a son système et ses réglemens ; ce n'est pas le cas de les discuter." "Je dirai seulement, que puisque Votre Altesse est un des plus illustres Vizirs de l'Empire, que l'Egypte aussi est une partie de cet Empire, et comme Votre Altesse le sait fort bien, il est devenu un usage, pour ainsi dire, que les Vizirs et les habitans en Turquie s'habillent comme les Ministres et les Employés à Constantinople ; il est essentiel que Votre Altesse adapte chacun de ses systèmes et de ses réglemens à ceux de la Sublime Porte." "C'est fort bien, mon fils, moi je ne m'y oppose pas ; moi aussi je désire prendre l'habit d'ordonnance. Mais les hommes ici sont un peu plus

difficieux qu'ailleurs. Le changement de costume est vraiment une de ces choses qui doivent se faire peu à peu ; remettez-vous en à moi, et je ferai le nécessaire en tems et lieu ; c'est-à-dire je ferai changer de costume à tous. Quant au pavillon des bâtimens de guerre, il est tout-à-fait le même que celui des bâtimens de la flotte Impériale ; seulement les drapeaux des troupes étaient jusqu'ici blancs ; lorsqu'on en enverra de Constantinople des modèles, j'en ferai faire de pareils aussi.

Je fis prendre au Pacha les engagements ci-dessus.

Le Pacha me dit : "D'après les mêmes principes équitables sur lesquels les nouvelles reformes sont basées, chacun ici est sûr de son bien et de sa vie ; et tous mettent leurs soins et leur attention à agir en conséquence sur ces points essentiels. Il n'y a que l'assiette des impôts qu'on ne peut adapter dans un pays comme celui-ci au système établi par les reformes ; parceque l'on perçoit des habitans, avec la dîme, un impôt annuel connu sous la dénomination "d'Hradjiyé," dont le quantum en argent dépend de l'étendue des terres que chacun possède. "Hradjiyé" est proprement le loyer de ces terres. On ne prend rien de plus à titre d'impôt. Ces pays ne sauraient, en aucune manière, être assimilés aux pays de la Roumélie. Supposé que l'on veuille abolir l'ancien système pour lui en substituer un nouveau ; eh bien, dans ce cas, vu le caractère singulier des Arabes, l'ancien système serait tout-à-fait désorganisé, et cela aurait à la fin apporté du désordre. Ainsi, que la Sublime Porte s'en rapporte à ma manière de voir pour l'arrangement de pareilles affaires."

Voilà ce que le Pacha finit par me dire.

Je représentai au Pacha que Sa Hautesse veut que le premier régiment des troupes de ligne Impériales de Marine, ainsi que les milices de la provinces de Brousse, soient renvoyés complètement à Constantinople, de quelque part qu'ils puissent être. "Ces régimens avaient été expédiés en Syrie. Jusqu'à présent aucune partie de ces troupes n'est revenue ici. Il est à croire que quelques hommes de ces régimens sont devenus "Cavass," et que la plupart des autres sont allés de Beyrout à Constantinople. Le Colonel des Milices Yadhigiar Hassan Bey est seulement venu en Egypte avec Ibrahim Pacha. Si dorénavant des soldats appartenans à ces régimens arrivent ici, je les enverrai immédiatement à Constantinople conformément à la volonté Souveraine."

D'après les instructions que j'avais reçues, j'ai fait tous mes efforts, comme Dieu le sait, pour remplir ma mission conformément aux desirs de la Sublime Porte ; mais le Pacha, mettant en avant les inconvéniens qui, dans sa manière de voir, existent relativement au quart des revenus et à la succession dans sa famille, n'a pas acquiescé à ces points. A grande peine ai-je pu lui faire prendre l'engagement de faire réduire ses troupes, de ne pas faire construire des bâtimens sans en avoir obtenu la permission, de battre la monnaie de la manière indiquée, et de faire les autres choses, ainsi que Sa Hautesse le veut. En parlant de sa famille, je lui dis aussi : "Votre Altesse veut que la succession ait à passer, comme une condition établie, de l'ainé à l'ainé, mais il y a des inconvéniens à cela. Et entre autres, le ci-devant Begler Bey de Tripoli de Barbarie, Mustapha Pacha, fils de Youssouf Pacha, n'ayant pas été capable de gouverner, le pays a été en proie aux désordres, et un autre Gouverneur fut à la fin nommé et envoyé par la Sublime Porte à Tripoli. Or, l'Egypte est une des plus importantes Provinces de l'Empire. Cela étant, et vu que l'on ne sait pas ce qui peut arriver avec le tems, la Sublime Porte, qui pense à tout, a jugé convenable la mesure qu'elle a adoptée." "Effendi, mon fils, vous avez raison ; mais mes enfans étant des hommes lettrés, des hommes sensés, il n'y a pas un pareil inconvénient à craindre." "Il est vrai, Altesse, que vos fils qui existent à présent sont des hommes sensés et judicieux ; mais de génération en génération, le Gouvernement de l'Egypte peut échoir à un homme sans jugement, et alors, à Dieu ne plaise, on peut s'attendre à ce que la province soit en désordre, que la scission se mette dans votre famille, et qu'il survienne d'autres maux qui ne se présentent pas à l'esprit dans ce moment-ci. L'histoire nous offre une foule d'exemples de choses semblables arrivées autrefois. Peut-être même Votre

Altesse a-t-elle été témoin de pareils évènements qui touchent de près la Sublime Porte." "Ce pays appartient à la Sublime Porte. Si le Gouvernement de ce pays tombait entre les mains d'un homme incapable, la Sublime Porte le saurait, on le lui écrirait même d'ici; et comme elle ne laissera pas le pays en désordre, il n'y aura aucune espèce de difficulté pour elle de conférer le Gouvernement de la Province à un digne sujet, et elle en a le droit."

Voilà ce que le Pacha finit par dire, en conséquence de quoi j'ai rédigé et divisé par paragraphes le présent rapport, qui ne renferme que la troisième partie de mes discussions avec Méhémet Ali; je l'envoie avec une lettre de sa part à Son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et j'attendrai à Alexandrie la réponse de la Sublime Porte.

No. 220.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 77.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 10, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 101, of the 17th of March, inclosing copy of an Official Note addressed to you by Rechid Pasha on the previous day, requesting to be made acquainted with your Excellency's opinion as to the course to be pursued by the Porte, with reference to the answer given by Mehemed Ali to the Grand Vizier, respecting the firmans of the 13th of February, and containing an account of a discussion between your colleagues and yourself upon that subject.

I have to state to your Excellency in reply, that my former despatches and the Collective Notes of the Conference appear to me to afford sufficient elements to guide your Excellency in the advice which, either jointly with your Colleagues, or separately, if they should not be prepared to take any steps in the matter, your Excellency should give to the Porte. It is extremely important that the matters in dispute between the Sultan and Mehemed Ali should be settled as soon as possible; and it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the objection stated by your Excellency in your despatch No. 101, to any communication being made by the Sultan to Mehemed Ali, because such communication would have the appearance of negotiation, ought not to weigh against the extreme urgency of coming to a final settlement; and it is obvious, that no such final settlement can be come to without such direct communication.

On some of the points of difference between the two parties, Mehemed Ali has reason on his side; on others Mehemed Ali is clearly and decidedly in the wrong. The Sultan ought, therefore, without delay to modify such parts of his firmans as are open to reasonable objections, and he should explain why the other parts cannot be altered without a departure from the terms of the Treaty of July, and from the opinions and advice of the Four Powers; and your Excellency should urge the Porte to do this without loss of time.

It is very possible that the report announced by the Internuncio to his colleagues, that the Conference had separated, and that the Alliance was dissolved, may have encouraged Mehemed Ali to make the unreasonable objections contained in his letter to the Grand Vizier, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch No. 89 of the 9th of March; but Mehemed Ali will since that time have learnt, that the Conference has not separated, and that the Alliance has not been dissolved: but that, on the contrary, the Four Powers remain steady to their purpose, and true to their engagements; and he will, therefore, probably be disposed again to revert to that state of submission to the Sultan, which he had at first professed, and of which he had given proof by the surrender of the Turkish fleet; but from which he was probably induced afterwards to swerve by the report, no doubt sent to him from Paris, that the Conference was about to separate.

A proposal to that effect was indeed made, and strongly urged by the Plenipotentiaries of Austria and Prussia at London, by orders of their Governments, and apparently in compliance with wishes privately expressed to those Governments by the Government of France, with a view to render it more easy for the French Government to enter into a fresh Convention with the Four Powers and with Turkey. But this proposal was positively and firmly rejected by Her Majesty's Government, on account of the very objection which subsequent events have shown to be well-founded; namely, that differences were likely to arise between Mehemed Ali and the Sultan as to the practical acceptance, by the former, of the conditions which the Four Powers had recommended the Sultan to attach to the grant of hereditary tenure, and that if Mehemed Ali were to find that the Four Powers had abandoned the Sultan at the eleventh hour, and before they had seen him fully through the difficulties out of which they had engaged themselves by Treaty to help him; Mehemed Ali would thereby be encouraged to retract his submission, and to start objections to those conditions, relying upon the infirmity of purpose which would thus have been shown by the Four Powers; and believing, as in such case he would justly have been entitled to do, that the Four Powers, after having expelled his troops from Syria, notwithstanding the displeasure of France, had at last shrunk from further encountering that displeasure, and had, in deference to the will of France, abandoned the enforcement of the conditions which they had themselves inserted in the Treaty, and which in their subsequent Notes they had declared to be indispensable.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 221.

Sir John Barrow to Lord Leveson.

My Lord,

Admiralty, April 8, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated the 10th of December last, No. 152, and its inclosures, relative to the Affairs of Turkey and Egypt; and I am at the same time to acquaint you that the reply from the Egyptian Minister to Commodore Sir Charles Napier, alluded to in the Commodore's letter of the 26th of November last, a copy of which was sent to the Foreign Office on the 14th of December last, has not been received.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 152.)

Sir,

"Princess Charlotte," Marmorice,
December 10, 1840.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 14th of November, off Cyprus, by the "Megæra" on the 6th instant, when I immediately directed Captain Fanshawe, of my flag-ship, to proceed in her on the mission therein ordered to Mehemed Ali, accompanied by the first Dragoman of the British Consulate at Smyrna, who has served as

my Dragoman throughout, much to my satisfaction. The letters to Major-General Sir Charles Smith and others, I forwarded immediately to Beyrout by the "Daphne."

With reference to my letter of the 1st instant, No. 147, I transmit, for their Lordships' information, the copy of the letter which I wrote to Commodore Napier in answer to the one, a copy of which I likewise inclose, in which he informed me of his having entered into a Convention, for the evacuation of Syria, with Mehemet Ali,—a Convention which I could not on any account approve or ratify under such circumstances. And I beg to call their Lordships' attention to the great injury and inconvenience which Her Majesty's service is exposed to, if an officer only a few days' sail from his Commander-in-Chief undertakes without the slightest authority to enter upon such important negotiations without any previous reference to his Admiral.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.

Her Majesty's Steamer "Medea,"
Alexandria, Nov. 27, 1840.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour of inclosing copies of the correspondence which has taken place between the Egyptian Government and myself which has led to the accompanying Convention. I hope I have been right in bringing this question to an end. The Government was very anxious to remain in possession of Syria till after Mehemet Ali was officially informed by the Porte of his being reinstated in the Government of Egypt, and his hereditary title confirmed and guaranteed by the Allied Powers; but I would not consent to a suspension of hostilities, until orders were given for the immediate evacuation of Syria. The officer who carries these orders proceeds in the "Medea."

They wished me to nominate an officer to see this Convention carried into effect, but I preferred leaving it to your arrangement.

I have sent the copies of the whole proceeding to the Admiralty by the "Oriental," except the Convention, which was not ready. I shall send it to Sir John Louis by the "Prometheus," and beg him to take what steps he may judge proper to get it conveyed to England without delay. I have also sent a copy of the Convention to Lord Ponsonby, and informed him that the whole of the correspondence had been forwarded to you.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

Admiral Stopford to Commodore Napier.

"Princess Charlotte," St. George's Bay,
Beyrout, December 2, 1840.

Sir,

I HAVE received by the "Prometheus" your letters and the Convention which you have entered into with Boghos Bey for the evacuation of Syria.

I am sorry to say that I cannot ratify or approve of this measure: setting aside the unauthorised manner and the unnecessary haste with which so important a document was executed, with the Commander-in-

Chief within two days' sail of you, the Articles of that Convention, if carried into execution in the present state of affairs in Syria, would be productive of much more evil than good, and occasion much embarrassment. You will immediately stop the Egyptian transports from coming to this coast, and should any arrive, I have given orders that they should return to Alexandria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

No. 222.

Sir John Barrow to Lord Leveson.

My Lord, Admiralty, April 13, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, copies of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated the 28th of last month No. 66, and its inclosures, on the subject of the Convention entered into between Commodore Sir Charles Napier and Mehemet Ali.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 66.)
Sir,

"Princess Charlotte," at Malta,
March 28, 1841.

HAVING communicated the substance of your letter of the 27th ultimo No. 117 to Commodore Sir Charles Napier, as desired by their Lordships, I have the honour to inclose copies of my letter, with his answer, and of my letter to Mehemet Ali, to which, I presume, he alluded.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 222.

Admiral Stopford to Commodore Napier.

"Princess Charlotte," Malta,
March 15, 1841.

Sir,

I AM desired by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that whatever may have been the political considerations which induced Her Majesty's Government to sanction the Convention entered into under the circumstances in which you felt yourself placed, their Lordships fully concur in my opinion of the injury and inconvenience to which Her Majesty's service may be exposed by a junior officer taking on himself such a responsibility, which can only be justified by the event, as in the present instance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 222.

*Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.**Her Majesty's Ship "Powerful,"
Malta, March 23, 1841.*

Sir,

HAD I not received a letter from the Admiralty direct, together with private ones from Lords Minto and Palmerston, approving of the Convention I entered into with Mehemet Ali, which Convention was based on the Treaty of the 15th of July, and approved of by the Great Powers of Europe who are now carrying it out, I should have considered your letter of the 15th of March, communicating their Lordships' opinion, as intended to convey a sort of censure.

I am quite aware, when an officer takes upon himself the responsibility I did, there must be strong reasons to justify him. I took the same responsibility at Sidon and Bohastif; and had I been defeated, I incurred the same risk of censure; and I trust as long as I can benefit my country by incurring responsibility, I shall always possess strength of mind to do it.

I take this opportunity of observing how much I regret that you should have found it necessary, in disapproving of my Convention, to have expressed yourself in such harsh terms of me to Mehemet Ali, which placed me in a very unpleasant situation at Alexandria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in No. 222.

*Admiral Stopford to Commodore Napier.**"Princess Charlotte," at Malta,
March 23, 1841.*

Sir,

I DO not intend to enter into the political merits of your Convention with Mehemet Ali, which has been subsequently sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government; but as Commander-in-Chief upon this station I think I should have signally failed in my duty, if I had not represented to the Admiralty any act of any officer under my command which I considered to be contrary to the rules and customs of the naval service.

I am not aware of any harsh expressions towards your proceedings in my letter to Mehemet Ali, as I consider the words "hasty and unauthorised" perfectly justifiable under the circumstances of the case, and which accounted for my refusing to ratify the Convention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 4 in No. 222.

*Admiral Stopford to Mehemet Ali.**"Princess Charlotte," St. George's Bay,
Beyrout, December 2, 1840.*

Highness,

I AM sorry to find that Commodore Napier should have entered into a Convention with Your Highness for the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops, which he had no authority to do, and which I cannot approve of or ratify.

Your Highness's Envoy, Abdul Amin Bey, has consulted with the

General commanding the troops as to his best manner of proceeding to Ibrahim Pasha: the General having good reason to suppose that Ibrahim Pasha had left Damascus (a great part of his army having left it a few days since, going to the southward upon the Mecca road), could not guarantee a safe conduct for Your Highness's Envoy further than Damascus; he therefore returns to Alexandria, having done all in his power to execute Your Highness's orders.

I hope this letter will reach Your Highness in time to stop the transports which, Commodore Napier writes me, are coming to the coast of Syria for the purpose of embarking part of the Egyptian army; should any of them arrive there, they will be ordered back to Alexandria.

I hope this hasty and unauthorised Convention will not occasion any embarrassment to Your Highness; it was, no doubt, done from an amicable motive, though under a limited view of the state of affairs in Syria; but it will not lessen my earnest desire most readily to adopt any measure which may tend to a renewal of that amity and good feeling which I trust will hereafter subsist between England and Your Highness, the terms of which, I am happy to hear, are now in a state of progress with the Allied Powers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

No. 223.

Sir John Barrow to J. Backhouse, Esq.

Sir,

Admiralty, April 14, 1841.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you, for the information of Viscount Palmerston, the inclosed copy of a letter from Admiral the Honourable Sir Robert Stopford, dated 30th March, 1841, No. 71, inclosing copy of correspondence between Commodore Sir Charles Napier and Major-General Jochmus, and also copy of a statement from the Major-General respecting the strength of the Egyptian forces on leaving Damascus on the 29th of December last.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BARROW.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Admiral Stopford to R. More O'Ferrall, Esq.

(No. 71.)

Sir,

*"Princess Charlotte,"
Malta, March 30, 1841.*

I BEG to forward the copy of a letter from Commodore Sir Charles Napier to Lieutenant-General Jochmus, in answer to one from him dated the 8th of February last, of which I transmitted a copy on the 1st instant, on the state of affairs in Syria.

I likewise inclose the copy of a statement by Lieutenant-General Jochmus from the returns of Mr. Werry, the British Consul at Damascus, of the strength of the Egyptian forces on leaving that place on the 29th of December last, appearing to be 56,713 men: the discrepancy in the various accounts is said by General Jochmus to arise from trains of attendants, mule-drivers, &c., who are all armed after the Eastern custom, being reckoned in one estimate and not another, and may amount to 8,000 men; but it is difficult to get at the exact truth in respect to numbers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT STOPFORD,
Admiral.

Sub-Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Commodore Napier to Admiral Stopford.

Her Majesty's Ship "Powerful,"
Malta, March 29, 1841.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose the copy of a letter I have written to General Jochmus, in answer to his letter of the 8th of February last.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Commodore Napier to General Jochmus.

Her Majesty's Ship "Powerful,"
Malta, March 29, 1841.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th of February, and in reply beg to observe, that Captain Stewart and the British officers gave a very different account of the state of the Egyptian army to what you do, and also of the facilities given to Ibrahim Pasha to evacuate Syria by the Turkish authorities.

In Captain Stewart's letter to you dated the 12th of January, he distinctly says that you avowed your intention, in the presence of General Michell, to annihilate Ibrahim's army, and if possible prevent a single Egyptian getting back to his country; and in fact you did advance on Gaza, in face of a protest from General Michell and Captain Stewart, and then retired, which movement was also protested against by General Michell.

In your letter to the Seraskier of the 21st of January you inform him that Ibrahim's magazines had been destroyed at —, that his army was cut in two, and that 150 guns are inevitably in your possession; and that, in consequence of official and secret orders decided at a Council, Ibrahim was given the choice of two conditions. Mr. Wood also plainly says, that in obedience to secret orders from the Porte, if he is weak these conditions are to be imposed upon him; by what authority he gives any opinion at all I am at a loss to guess. He is Vice-Consul at Beyrout. There is nothing either in the Convention or in Sir Robert Stopford's orders authorizing the imposition of such conditions. Had Ibrahim Pasha been permitted to retire quietly from Syria, which was the intention of the Allies, the misery and loss of life both to the Syrians and Egyptians would have been spared; and I am sorry to be obliged to observe, that the Turkish authorities appear to me to have been desirous, not to facilitate Ibrahim's retreat, but on the contrary to have destroyed his army.

Rechid Pasha acknowledged to Captain Stewart that he had sent orders to you to demand his guns, and in case of refusal to attack him; but after seeing the efficient state of the Egyptian army, particularly the cavalry, he sent another Courier to contradict the orders, who fortunately overtook the first; I say fortunately, because, from all I have heard from the British officers who were there, had the Egyptian army been attacked, so far from dispersing at the sound of a few drums, they were in a condition, supported by their numerous cavalry, to have annihilated the Turkish army. But even had the contrary been the case, I cannot understand that destroying the Sultan's subjects, whether Turkish or Egyptian, would tend to strengthen the Turkish Empire: fortunately for Turkey, as will be seen ere long, notwithstanding the impediments thrown in the way of Ibrahim's retreat, it was effected with good judgment, and the 150 guns, which were reported to have fallen into the hands of the Turks, arrived safe at Cairo.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES NAPIER,
Commodore.

Sub-Inclosure 3 in No. 223.

General Return of the Egyptian Forces beginning the retreat from Damascus on
the 29th December, 1840.

Damascus, February 27, 1841.

PERIODS.	Effective Combatants.				Total Effective Comba- tants.	Non-combatant Military Admin- istrations, Military Ser- vants, Invalids and Hospitals.	Grand Total of the Army in Syria.	Muleteers, Cam- el-Drivers, Civil Employes of Syria, their servants all armed and hence included in the Irregular Forces by Mr. Werry.	Total of Male Individuals leaving Damascus at the retreat on 29th December 1840.
	Regular Army.		Irregular Forces.						
	Infantry and Artillery. Effective Officers, Rank and File.	Cavalry. Lances and Sabres.	Infantry. Rank and File.	Cavalry. Lances and Sabres.					
Vide General Return, dated at Jaffa, February 2, 1841.									
September 10, 1840.									
Forces in Syria under Ibrahim Pasha.....	58,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	75,000	10,000	85,000		
Loss of troops up to the beginning of the Retreat.....	34,000	2,000	3,000	1,000	40,000	5,000	45,000		
Forces retreating from Damascus	24,000	5,000	2,000	4,000	35,000	5,000	40,000	8,000*	48,000
Same Forces accord- ing to Mr. Werry's Return made at Da- mascus	Infantry, 29,382 Artillery, 4,832		Albanian, 2,000	Hennedy 2,500 Others, 1,500	4,138 not including military ser- vants.	16,160	
	34,214	4,201	2,000 **	4,000	44,415	4,138	48,553	6,160	54,713

* Vide General Return of February 2, 1841, where these classes are estimated at 8,000 men, who although armed, and on foot or horseback, do not constitute any irregular effective force. Mr. Werry has included them in the regular troops, under the denomination of Bachi-Bouzuk horse and Armaouts.

According to the same principle the number of women and children is about 8,000.

Mr. Werry makes it—Wives of Non-commissioned Officers with children . . . 5,786

Add Wives and Female Attendants in harems of the . . . 1,600

General and Field Officers . . . 7,386

† The difference of 1,840 men must be deducted from the amount of Mr. Werry's Regular Infantry, as many former soldiers were employed as muleteers and camel-drivers, the animals not having been hired, but driven away from the neighbouring devastated villages, from whence the peasantry had fled.

‡ The effective number of Hennedy Irregular Horse was not above 2,000.

§ Upwards of one half of these 4,832 men were lately drafted Infantry soldiers, the old Artillery having deserted in large proportions.

|| Seven hundred dismounted Cavalry arrived at Gaza; it is very likely that a similar number of dismounted men left Damascus, where barley had been extremely scarce. Hence, also, a great number of guns were drawn by bullocks and cows.

¶ Difference of Rations issued 6,713.

This difference of 6,713 men will not appear extraordinary, if it is considered that Mr. Werry's return is made up from the ration return, pay lists, and other similar documents of the last days of December found in Damascus. The already then only half-organized infantry and artillery, naturally overdraw rations and such small portions of pay as was issued.

** Distribution of Irregular forces—

Total of Mr. Werry's . . . 11,640

Riflemen . . . 520

12,160

Returned above:—

Albanians . . . 2,000

Hennedy and Bachi-Bouzuk Cavalry . . . 4,000

Armed men on horse and foot accompanying the army and harems in

note *, not actual soldiers . . . 6,160

12,160

(Signed) J. F. HERMAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.
(Signed) A. JOCHMUS,
Lieutenant-General.

Approved

Sub-Inclosure 4 in No. 223.

Note en Arabe sur la Force de l'Armée d'Ibrahim Pacha, et des Personnes qui s'y trouvaient attachés lors de l'Evacuation du Damas, le 29 Décembre, 1840.

(Traduction.)

Nombre des Pachas.	
Ibrahim Pacha, Général-en-Chef	1
Solyman Pacha, Chef de l'Etat-Major, Major-Général de l'Armée	1
Ahmed Pacha, Emir Miran	1
Osman Pacha, Ditto	1
Ahmed Pacha, Emir Miran de Cuirassiers	1
Sélim Pacha, Emir Miran	1
Kourchid Pacha, Ditto	1
Houssein Pacha, Ditto	1
Chérif Pacha, Ditto	1
	<u>9</u>

Infanterie.	
Généraux	4
Colonels	11
Lieutenant-Colonels	13
Chefs de Bataillons	60
Adjutants-Major	68
Capitaines	438
Lieutenants et Sous-Lieutenants	823
Attachés aux Régimens (Médecins, Pharmaciens, et Musiques)	273
Sous-Officiers et Soldats	27,956
	<u>29,646</u>

Infanterie Légère.	
Chasseurs Tirailleurs	520

Cavalerie.	
Généraux	3
Colonels	6
Lieutenant-Colonels	3
Chefs d'Escadrons	16
Adjutants-Major	34
Capitaines	93
Lieutenants et Sous-Lieutenants	171
Attachés aux Régimens (Médecins, Pharmaciens, et Musiques)	176
Sous-Officiers et Cavaliers	3,699
	<u>4,201</u>

Artillerie.	
Généraux	2
Colonels	3
Lieutenant-Colonels	3
Chefs de Bataillons	10
Adjutants-Major	21
Capitaines	73
Lieutenants et Sous-Lieutenants	92

Carried forward 204 34,376

4 P 3

Brought forward	204	34,376
Attachés aux Régimens (Médecins, Pharmaciens, et Musiques)	190	
Sous-Officiers et Artilleurs	4,628	
	<u>5,022</u>	

Soldats Irréguliers.

Bachi Bouzuk Cavalerie	4,000
Hanadi Ditto	2,500
Cavas Ditto	250
Arnaout Infanterie	4,860
	<u>11,610</u>

Invalides.

De toutes Armes	3,673
Total de Armée in Hommes	<u>54,681</u>

Femmes et Enfans de l'Armée excepté les Femmes des Chefs.

Femmes	3,697
Enfans sevrés	1,752
Ditto laitant	337
	<u>5,786</u>
Grand Total de l'Evacuation	<u>60,467</u>

No. 224.

J. Backhouse, Esq., to Sir John Barrow.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1841.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 13th of April, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, with a copy of a letter written by Commodore Sir Charles Napier to General Jochmus, containing observations upon the proceedings of the Turkish Commanders in Syria while the evacuation of that country by the Egyptian forces was in progress.

I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to state to you, with reference to this letter, and for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that one of the main objects of the Convention of 15th of July, was to reduce the military power of Mehemet Ali within such bounds as to render him obedient, in his capacity of subject, towards the Sultan, and that it was certainly desirable towards the attainment of that object, that the Egyptian army should not only be compelled to evacuate Syria, but should also be reduced in numbers and efficiency; and therefore it would have been very advantageous if a larger portion of the troops under Ibrahim Pasha had been made prisoners, or had been induced to come over to the Sultan, before Ibrahim Pasha retreated into Egypt; and it would also have been desirable that a larger portion of the Egyptian artillery should have been taken by the Turkish troops. But if, as has been stated, any further operations of General Jochmus for such purposes would have been inconsistent with pledges given and engagements taken towards Mehemet Ali by British officers, whether authorized or not to give such pledges, or to take such engagements, of course it was proper that every effort should be made by the British officers concerned, to prevent anything from being done which could be at variance with such pledges and engagements.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 225.

J. Backhouse, Esq., to Sir John Barrow.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 17, 1841.

I HAVE laid before Viscount Palmerston your letter of the 13th of April, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, with copies of a correspondence which he has had with Commodore Sir Charles Napier, with respect to the Articles of Agreement concluded by the latter Officer with the Egyptian Authorities on the 27th of November; and I am directed by his Lordship to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that in the qualified approval which his letter to their Lordships of the 14th of December contained of the steps taken by Sir Charles Napier to procure the evacuation of Syria by the Egyptian troops, he of course did not mean to say anything which could touch, one way or the other, the question of naval discipline, upon which it belongs to their Lordships alone to decide.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. BACKHOUSE.

No. 226.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 111.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 27, 1841.

YOUR Lordship has received copy of Mehemet Ali's letter to the Grand Vizier, and been informed of the conduct I thought it my duty to adopt. I have now the honour to inclose copy of my reply to the Official Note I received from the Porte, which was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 101 of this year.

Each of my Colleagues received a Note, identic with that to me, from the Porte, and they have been so good as to send me copies of their answers, which I inclose. They desired to have a copy of my reply, which was sent to them.

Your Lordship will see that I have strictly adhered to the spirit of your Instructions, and to the provisions of the Convention of 15th July, and the letter dated the 30th January from the Conference at London to Chekib Effendi.

Rechid Pasha has informed me, that the Council has decided that instructions shall be sent to Chekib Effendi to consult the British Government respecting the actual situation of the Egyptian Question, to the end that the Porte may act according to the advice of that Government.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 226.

Viscount Ponsonby to Rechid Pasha.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Therapia, March 18, 1841.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's Note dated 16th of March, wherein reference is made to a letter received by the Sublime Porte from the Pasha of Egypt, and to a despatch written by his Excellency Said Muhib Effendi, copies of which have been communicated to me by order of the Sublime Porte.

Your Excellency says that the hesitation of Mehemet Ali to accept the conditions referred to in the above-mentioned papers, is in no wise compatible with the position of a subject, and that it is clear that it would be hurtful, and contrary to the sovereign right of the Sultan, to grant the demands of the Pasha; and your Excellency has been ordered by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, to ask me what is my opinion as to the conduct the Sublime Porte should hold.

I beg to assure your Excellency that I am highly flattered by this mark of the confidence of the Sublime Porte, and that I will now, and upon all occasions, endeavour to merit it by sincerity.

My opinion coincides entirely with the opinion expressed by your Excellency; I think that submission on the part of Mehemet Ali to the authority of his Sovereign, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, was and is the basis upon which the favours granted by the Sultan are all to rest as the fundamental condition of their being accorded. It appears to me that the letter from the Pasha of Egypt to the Grand Vizier, does not bear the character of submission, though it contains certain phrases expressive of solicitation, in the same style as that which the Pasha has heretofore used in his letters written at the moment when he was openly in arms against his Sovereign; and the essence of this letter seems to be, refusal of the conditions imposed on him by the Sultan. I will not quote the various official documents, including the reply of the Conference of London to his Excellency Chekib Effendi, dated 30th of January, 1841, wherein the submission of Mehemet Ali has been recognized by all the Allies, as the foundation upon which is to rest the clemency and the favours His Imperial Majesty may be pleased to extend to that Pasha; nor do I think it necessary here to cite the instructions I have received from my Government on that point, because they have already been made fully known to the Sublime Porte; but I refer to those documents as the guides by which I am directed, and the authority by which I am governed.

If submission be the basis, as above said, I am of opinion that it is at least very questionable, if it be possible, in the present case, for the Sublime Porte to negotiate with Mehemet Ali without infringing on the principle of Sovereignty in the Sultan. The firman is an order. No subject can refuse to obey an order, and be said to be submissive to the Sovereign. A subject may petition his Sovereign to change or to revoke an order. Has Mehemet Ali petitioned for alteration, or has he expressed his will to disobey the order? The latter seems to be the fact; and what we learn of the continued preparations making by the Pasha to strengthen his military means, corroborates the notion that he refuses to obey.

The Sublime Porte being intimately connected by the strongest ties with the Government I have the honour to serve, I think it my duty to recommend, that in a matter of so much importance as that at present in question, and respecting which there may be doubts, the Sublime Porte should ask the opinion of its faithful friend and Ally; and that the Sublime Porte should remain entirely inactive as respects the Pasha of Egypt's letter to the Grand Vizier until the Sublime Porte shall have had confidential communication with the British Government.

I venture to offer this opinion in conformity with the expressed desire of the Sublime Porte that I should state an opinion, and because I cannot foresee that the mode of acting I recommend can be productive of the least inconvenience to the Sublime Porte. It appears to me that no evil of any sort for the Sublime Porte can attend upon delay. The Sublime Porte must naturally increase its internal strength during the period of delay. The Sublime Porte is, at this moment, stronger, I believe, than Mehemet Ali. I think he will not risk any offensive act, and that if he were to risk any such act his destruction might be the consequence.

The Porte is pleased to attach high value to its friendly relations with its Allies, and they can only be fortified by every additional evidence of the confidence which the Sublime Porte reposes in them. The Sublime Porte will not limit its power of free and independent action by

asking the opinion of a friend, but it will obtain the sure knowledge of the feelings of that friend, and the advantage such knowledge will afford for the subsequent arrangement of its own plans.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 226.

Baron de Stürmer to Rechid Pasha.

Constantinople, 18 Mars, 1841.

J'AI reçu hier la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser, par ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, pour m demander mon avis sur la ligne de conduite que la Sublime Porte devra suivre en conséquence du refus du Pacha d'Egypte de se soumettre à quelques unes des conditions qui lui ont été imposées.

Tout en appréciant, comme je le dois, une si flatteuse preuve de confiance, ou plutôt par cela même que j'en sens toute la valeur, je ne saurais prendre sur moi d'y répondre en mon propre nom, et dès hier j'ai transmis cette note à mon auguste Cour, en la priant de me prescrire les conseils que je devrai donner à la Sublime Porte dans cette conjoncture délicate.

Si toutefois, sans préjuger en rien ses intentions, j'osais en attendant me permettre d'énoncer ici quelques idées qui me sont personnelles, je dirai que parmi les Actes de la Conférence de Londres, qui nous ont servi de guides jusqu'ici, il en est un (la note à Chékib Effendi du 30 Janvier) qui nous fait connaître la manière dans laquelle les Puissances Alliées de la Sublime Porte auraient désiré voir établir l'hérédité que le Sultan a daigné accorder à Méhémet Ali. Arrivé ici tardivement, c'est-à-dire longtemps après l'expédition du firman d'investiture, cet Acte n'a pu avoir son effet. Néanmoins, il pourrait, ce me semble, déterminer la Sublime Porte, même encore maintenant, non pas à changer ses premières résolutions, ce qui serait contraire à sa dignité, mais à chercher quelque moyen d'accéder aux prières de Méhémet Ali, en satisfaisant, en même temps, au vœu des Puissances Alliées, qui n'est autre que de régler, dans l'intérêt du maintien de la paix Européenne, le mode de succession en Egypte, de manière à écarter pour l'avenir tout sujet de contestation.

Pour ce qui est des autres conditions dont Méhémet Ali réclame la modification, elles ont été, et doivent être, l'expression pure et simple de la volonté Souveraine du Sultan; et les Alliés de Sa Majesté Impériale penseront sans doute qu'à elle seule appartient le droit de décider jusqu'à quel point elle peut y condescendre.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,
(Signé) STURMER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 226.

Count Königsmarck to Rechid Pasha.

Beyukdéré, ce 17 Mars, 1841.

LE Soussigné, Ministre de Prusse près la Sublime Porte Ottomane, a eu l'honneur de recevoir la Note que son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a bien voulu lui adresser en date du 14 de ce mois (21 Moharrem), pour demander, d'ordre de Sa Majesté le Sultan, son avis sur le parti à prendre par la Sublime Porte, en conséquence des représentations de Méhémet Ali Pacha, relativement à plusieurs des dispositions Souveraines contenues dans le firman d'investiture héréditaire du Gouvernement de l'Egypte.

Plus le Soussigné se trouve honoré de cette marque de confiance, plus

il regrette de n'être pas autorisé à offrir à ce sujet des conseils. Il va s'empresse de porter la susdite Note à la connaissance de son auguste Cour, et d'en demander les instructions.

Le Soussigné, &c.,
(Signé) KENIGSMARCK.

Inclosure 4 in No. 226.

M. Titow to Rechid Pasha.

17 Mars, 1841.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la Note Officielle que votre Excellence m'a adressé le 21 Moharrem (1^{er} Février), pour m'inviter à énoncer un avis sur la ligne de conduite à tenir par la Sublime Porte, vu l'hésitation du Pacha d'Egypte à remplir quelques unes des conditions tracées dans le firman que Saïd Muhib Effendi s'est trouvé chargé de lui remettre.

Le désir spontané que votre Excellence m'exprime au nom de Sa Hautesse ne saurait être à mes yeux qu'un nouvel et précieux témoignage de la sincère union de nos deux augustes Souverains, et de la confiance que le Sultan met à juste titre dans les dispositions et les conseils des Cours signataires de l'alliance du 15 Juillet, 1840.

L'objet de cette alliance conservatrice a été de maintenir, sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, l'intégrité de la Turquie, en ramenant la paix dans l'Orient. Afin d'accélérer cet heureux résultat, le Cabinet Impérial s'est joint au Gouvernement Britannique et aux autres Cours Alliées pour offrir à la Sublime Porte les conseils exposés dans les instructions à M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre du 15 Octobre et dans le Mémoire signé à Londres le 14 Novembre.

Ces conseils, dont j'ai été appelé à m'acquitter ici, de concert avec mes Collègues, et que les Représentants Alliés à Londres ont encore mieux développés dans la Note Collective du 30 Janvier dernier à Chékib Effendi, portaient entr'autres, qu'en accordant à Méhémet Ali l'investiture héréditaire du Pachalic d'Egypte, la Sublime Porte ferait bien de lui tracer les conditions restrictives établies par la Convention du 15 Juillet.

Le dispositif et les détails des conditions à prescrire sur une pareille base au Pacha d'Egypte appartiennent de leur nature au domaine exclusif et intérieur de la Sublime Porte. Les explications qui en résultent, et les questions administratives qui s'y rattachent, me sembleraient donc, je l'avoue, trop délicates en elles-mêmes pour admettre, sans autorisation expresse, ma co-opération dans une matière qui, entre les données locales qu'exigerait son examen approfondi, touche de si près à l'exercice de ce pouvoir Souverain et indépendant que les augustes amis de Sa Hautesse sont toujours les premiers à reconnaître et à respecter.

Je craindrais ainsi, M. le Ministre, d'outrepasser les attributions qui me sont assignées comme organe diplomatique de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, si je prenais sur moi de répondre à l'appel, d'ailleurs si amical, de la Sublime Porte, autrement qu'en assurant votre Excellence de l'empressement que je mettrai à en référer à ma Cour et à demander ses ordres.

Veuillez donc, M. le Ministre, croire au zèle que j'apporterai à m'acquitter sans délai de ce devoir, et agréer, en même temps, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) TITOW.

No. 227.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 112.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 27, 1841.

I FORWARD extract from a letter communicated to me by Baron de Stürmer; the contents I believe to be a true statement of facts, for they are in correspondence with what I have heard from other sources. I have to say, however, that this expression of my belief is not intended to apply to what is stated concerning Commodore Napier, about whom I beg to be understood not to give any opinion at all.

If anything were wanting to show the resistance of Mehemet Ali to the orders of the Sultan, and his defiance of the opinion of the Allies, there would be enough found in this extract to satisfy everybody on that point, and in the other undeniable accounts of his warlike preparations, notwithstanding his promises of submission to the authority of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Extraits des Lettres d'Egypte parvenues à M. Laurin.

DES lettres particulières d'Alexandrie du 16, et du Caire du 14 Mars, portent que Méhémet Ali Pacha réunissait journellement les différens Divans de la Capitale, qui s'occupaient exclusivement de l'organisation des Colonies Militaires, et d'une Armée Mobile. Il doit avoir donné les ordres nécessaires pour remonter le matériel, tout-à-fait dégradé, que les troupes retournées de la Syrie ont ramené. Ibrahim Pacha s'étant chargé de l'exécution de ses ordres, Méhémet Ali quitta le Caire le 13 à midi, et arriva à Alexandrie le 15 à 9 heures du matin.

L'armée de Syrie arrive au Caire, petit à petit, par le Désert de Suez, par celui d'El-Arish, et par la voie de mer par Damiette. Ibrahim Pacha prétend, qu'au bout de trois mois tous ces débris seront ré-organisés, et que bientôt il pourra présenter aux ennemis de son père une armée de 60,000 hommes.

Les nouvelles que Méhémet Ali a reçues par le bateau à vapeur, arrivé de France le 14, ne l'ont pas satisfait. En outre, le Gérant du Consulat de France, M. le Comte de Chabot, arrivé le 15 par un bateau à vapeur du Gouvernement Français, doit l'avoir confidentiellement assuré que la France admettra comme un fait accompli, et tout-à-fait étranger à sa politique, l'arrangement qu'il a fait avec la Porte, au sujet de l'administration héréditaire du Pachalic d'Egypte.

Ibrahim Pacha est toujours souffrant. Il ne peut supporter la moindre fatigue. Son père, voulant le ménager, s'était rendu auprès de lui pour traiter des affaires, ayant trait à l'organisation et à l'administration de l'armée, dont il vient d'être chargé. Son médecin prétend que la maladie de foie, dont il est atteint, devra finir par une hydropsie, dont les symptômes se sont déjà manifestés.

Méhémet Ali doit avoir déclaré au Caire, que si l'on voudra s'entendre avec lui sur le mode de succession, il sera prêt à prélever le quart sur les impôts au bénéfice du Sultan, mais qu'il ne voudrait avoir ni contrôle, ni contrôleur, soit pour la perception des impôts, soit pour les dépenses.

On continue à soutenir, tant au Caire qu'à Alexandrie, que sur le conseil de Napier, et sous les assurances d'un certain Consul*, que les Ministres des Puissances Alliées à Constantinople ont désapprouvé les con-

* Le Consul de Suède.

No. 228.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord,

Therapia, March 29, 1841.

RECHID PASHA and Ahmed Fethi Pasha are removed from office. Rifat Bey has been made Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Tahir Pasha, Capudan Pasha; Said Pasha, late Capudan Pasha, succeeds Ahmed Fethi Pasha in the post of Minister of Commerce. These changes were published this morning.

I think the news so important that I despatch the messenger without waiting for the notification from the Porte of the adoption of the decision of the Council upon the affair of Mehemet Ali. I have no reason to doubt of that decision being approved of by the Sultan.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 229.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 64.)

My Lord,

Vienna, April 9, 1841.

ON the 31st of March last I announced to your Lordship the attitude which the Court of Austria was on the point of taking in the Turco-Egyptian Question. The instructions enjoining that attitude were sent to Baron Stürmer two days later, and afterwards to Prince Esterhazy for communication to your Lordship. The decision, however, of the Austrian Cabinet is of so much importance, that having obtained a copy of Prince Metternich's despatch in which it is conveyed, I inclose it to your Lordship. Prince Metternich therein declares, that if the Divan does not adopt the modifications to the firman of investiture recommended by the Conference of London, His Imperial Majesty will consider himself released from the obligations he had contracted by the Treaty of July. I have no doubt but what it is the intention of this Cabinet to act up to this declaration, in which course it will assuredly be followed by that of Prussia.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

Inclosure in No. 229.

*Prince Metternich to Baron de Stürmer.**Vienne, le 2 Avril, 1841.*

J'ai reçu le 29 vos rapports du 17 Mars. Leur contenu a fixé notre attention la plus sérieuse, parcequ'il constate l'existence d'une position sans précédens dans les fastes de la diplomatie. Ce fait ressort des considérations suivantes.

Quand les grandes Cours Européennes se décidèrent à intervenir dans le conflit entre la Porte et Méhémet Ali, elles eurent soin d'établir un centre d'entente, et elles firent choix à cet effet de la capitale de la Grande Bretagne. Elles revêtirent leurs organes dans ce point d'union de la qualité de Plénipotentiaires, et invitèrent la Porte à envoyer de son côté un Plénipotentiaire à Londres. C'est dans ce centre que furent arrêtés la Convention et les autres Actes du 15 Juillet, 1840; et c'est de ce même point qu'émanèrent les instructions adressées, le 14 Novembre et le 17 Décembre, aux Représentans des Cours respectives à Constantinople, la Note Collective du 30 Janvier dernier, ainsi que les instructions, aux Amiraux durant tout le cours des opérations actives.

Outre ce foyer de délibération et de décision, il a tout naturellement dû exister des points, où l'on a adressé les directions, et où par conséquent devait s'exercer l'action tant morale que matérielle. Ces points étaient ceux de Constantinople et d'Alexandrie à l'égard de l'action morale, et la Syrie pour ce qui concernait l'action matérielle. Il est évident que, suivant l'ordre hiérarchique, c'est du centre de Londres qu'ont dû émaner les ordres, et que la tâche des autres points était d'exécuter ces ordres. Tout ce qui tendait à intervertir cette règle, a dû exposer la cause à des dangers; et aujourd'hui encore toute marche qui s'en écarte, ne saurait que créer de graves compromissions pour la Porte et pour les Cours ses Alliées.

Les rapports de votre Excellence du 17 Mars ne renferment que trop de preuves, que les affaires ne sont point placées dans les voies qu'il serait si nécessaire de leur voir suivre. Quelle suite, par exemple, a-t-il été donnée aux prescriptions si précises de la Note Collective du 30 Janvier? Quel compte le Divan et les organes des Quatre Cours ont-ils tenu des opinions que cette pièce exprimait? Nous voyons d'un côté la Porte indécise sur le parti qu'elle aura à prendre au sujet des représentations faites par Méhémet Ali contre quelques Articles du firman d'investiture, et de l'autre, les Représentans des Quatre Cours ne pas savoir prendre conseil des paroles si claires de la Note Collective mentionnée ci-dessus. En vérité, M. le Baron, c'est à n'y rien comprendre, tandis que ce qui saute aux yeux, c'est le mal qu'un état des choses pareil fait à l'intérêt bien entendu de la Porte, et les graves compromissions auxquelles il expose jusqu'à l'honneur même des Quatre Puissances. Aussi l'Empereur notre Auguste Maître n'entend-il pas rester dans une position pareille, et c'est parceque telle est la détermination bien arrêtée de Sa Majesté Impériale, que je vous transmets les directions suivantes, dont vous aurez soin de ne point dévier.

Le dernier courrier Anglais et l'expédition que je vous ai adressée le 26 Mars dernier, ont répondu d'avance et à fond aux scrupules de tout genre qui peuvent avoir influé sur la marche des organes des Quatre Cours, jusqu'à la date de vos rapports du 17 Mars. Il est à présumer, que dans l'intervalle qui s'est écoulé entre cette date et l'arrivée des expéditions susdites de Londres et de Vienne, les choses seront demeurées *in statu quo* à Constantinople. Ayant réclamé des ordres de leurs Cours respectives, vous et MM. vos collègues serez, à vue de pays, restés en suspens. Quel parti prendrez-vous lorsque vous serez en possession des dernières directions du centre de Londres? Je ne saurais pas le préjuger, mais je crois pouvoir me flatter, que vous aurez uniformément senti la nécessité de regarder ces directions comme préjugant d'avance les ordres, que chacun d'entre vous a réclamés de sa Cour, et que dès-lors vous n'aurez point tardé à donner au Divan des conseils conformes aux vues

des Quatre Puissances. Si tel devait être le cas, l'affaire approchera de sa fin avant l'arrivée du présent courrier.

Cependant, comme dans le cours de l'affaire nous avons déjà été exposés plus d'une fois à nous voir déçus dans notre attente, voici la ligne de conduite que je vous trace pour le cas où les dernières directions du centre de Londres auraient éprouvé le même sort que les précédentes.

Vous inviterez MM. vos Collègues de Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie à une réunion, et vous leur ferez connaître:

Que l'Empereur notre Auguste Maître, décidé pour sa part à se maintenir dans les limites des arrêtés pris en commun par les Plénipotentiaires des Quatre Cours dans le centre de Londres, vous ordonne d'insister près du Divan sur l'admission des modifications que ces mêmes Cours désirent voir apporter, dans l'intérêt même de la Porte, à certains Articles du Firman d'investiture du Pacha d'Egypte:

Qu'en vertu de cette décision vous êtes chargé d'inviter MM. vos Collègues à se réunir avec vous dans une démarche commune à faire dans ce sens envers la Porte; Que dans le cas où cette union n'aurait point lieu, vous êtes chargé de faire envers le Divan la démarche en question, soit seul, soit avec ceux de MM. vos Collègues qui se joindront à vous:

Qu'en vous acquittant envers le Divan des conseils conformes aux arrêtés pris dans le centre de Londres, et dans le cas du refus de Sa Hautesse d'obtempérer aux vœux de ses Alliés, vous aurez à déclarer à la Porte, que Sa Hautesse étant maîtresse de ses décisions, Sa Majesté Impériale par contre regarderait, pour sa part, comme épuisée, la tâche dont elle s'était chargée par les engagements qu'elle a contractés le 15 Juillet, 1840, et qu'elle se considérera dès-lors comme rendue à une entière liberté de position et d'action.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) METTERNICH.

No. 230.

The Marquess of Clanricarde to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, April 6, 1841.

YOUR Lordship's despatches, to No. 39 inclusive, were delivered to me on the 29th ultimo by the messenger Fricker.

The latest despatches that Count Nesselrode has received from Constantinople, give an account of the consultations and conduct of the Representatives of the Four Allied Powers, upon the communication to them of Mehemet Ali's reply to the Firmans sent to him, and of Said Muhib Effendi's report, and upon the report that had reached them from Vienna, of the Conference of London having been brought to a close.

I have communicated to his Excellency the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch to Lord Ponsonby, No. 49, and Count Nesselrode highly approves of them. He says they point out the mode in which the Porte may put an end to the difficulties which the Firmans sent to Alexandria have created, without derogation to the Sultan's authority, or offence to his dignity.

Count Nesselrode professes himself quite at a loss to understand the motives of the Internuncio's conduct at Constantinople, which has differed widely from the language and opinions put forth by Prince Metternich.

Upon the Protocol and Convention which have been prepared by the Conference at London, Count Nesselrode does not admit that Baron Brunnow had any reason to hesitate in assenting to those Acts; and he tells me that he has despatched to that Minister full powers for signing them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CLANRICARDE.

No. 231.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 18.)

(Extract.)

Berlin, April 14, 1841.

BARON WERTHER told me in the course of the same conversation, that the Prussian Minister in London having initialised (paraphé) the Eastern Convention, the Government looked upon the Treaty of July as terminated, and would take no further part in the negotiations; I cannot believe that this is the intention of the King, but as I have already stated, the impossibility of seeing His Majesty renders it impossible to rectify these erroneous statements put forth by Baron Werther.

No. 232.

Mr. Bulwer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 16, 1841.

YOUR Lordship will probably have observed the discussion on the supplementary budget, and the various efforts which were made to draw from M. Guizot any imprudent revelations as to the recent Convention between France and the Great Powers, Parties to the Treaty of the 15th of July. Your Lordship will also very probably have noticed the caution, remarkable for its contrast with the indiscretion of his predecessor, displayed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on this occasion; a caution not compromised, though accompanied by the declaration, that he hoped soon to be able to announce that "the armed peace" with which the session had commenced, had been exchanged for one of a more regular and tranquillizing nature. But the passages in this debate (Wednesday) to which I particularly wish to draw your Lordship's attention, are two declarations of M. Thiers. The first (made by accepting the observation of some foreign Minister), that France aspired to, and at the time of his Ministry was about to arrive at, the possession of the whole coast of Africa, and that this domination was to be extended by an alliance with the Pasha of Egypt, from the extreme of the Mediterranean up to the Red Sea. The second, that Arabia and Syria were merely causes of weakness and expense to Mehemet Ali, and consequently no losses to him, but that his being deprived of them was a serious loss to France, because she had thereby commanded the Euphrates and the Persian Gulf.

When I remember that the French Government in general, and M. Thiers in particular, always protested that France had no sort of interest in the Pasha extending his sway over Syria, and that their whole objection to driving him therefrom was the difficulty of the enterprise, I own that I am somewhat startled by the present unblushing disclosure. At the same time, I think it will give your Lordship increased reason to congratulate yourself on the policy you pursued, and convince all parties of, at least, this;—that had M. Thiers remained in office, it would have been impossible to have preserved for any time, whatever conduct we had adopted, the friendly relations between the two countries.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 233.

Mr. Bulwer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 16, 1841.

IT having come to my knowledge that some Members of the French Government had observed, that at the same time that they withdrew from all share in the proceedings between the Sultan and Mehemet Ali, they, in fact, afforded a protection to the latter by refusing to sign any common Act with the other Great European Powers, until the affairs of the East were brought to a conclusion, inasmuch as that they thereby disposed those Powers to settle the pending question promptly by concessions to the Pasha of Egypt; I thought it advisable to represent to M. Guizot the great inconveniences that might arise, if the Pasha should construe this delay or reluctance on the part of the French Government into a support of all his pretensions, many of which seem to be too extravagant to be seriously discussed: and I asked M. Guizot whether, under such circumstances, it might not be advisable to sign the recent Convention with respect to the Bosphorus at once, and by thereby depriving Mehemet of the support with which he might delude himself, bring the whole matter at once and promptly to a termination.

M. Guizot replied to me by saying, that he did not mean to assert that the refusal of the French Government to sign the Convention in question, until Mehemet Ali and the Sultan had come to terms, might not afford a certain protection to the former; but, said he, "I have taken care that Mehemet Ali should know that this protection is limited, and that I by no means approve of all his pretensions; on the contrary, indeed, I agree with you that many are exaggerated and absurd; and I have urged him peremptorily to abandon them. My notion, however, I tell you frankly, is, that if these affairs are to be settled speedily, as I wish them, and as you think they ought to be, this can only be effected by your Government pressing the Porte on one side, and my pressing Mehemet Ali on the other. But were all the signatures affixed to the recent Convention, neither your Government nor mine would have the same motives for urgency. The remaining affair then would be left in the hands of the parties themselves, who would protract the negotiation *ad infinitum*; and thus, after having accomplished all the forms by which the business should be terminated, it would remain in a year hence, just where it is now."

"But," said I, "supposing you will only sign the Convention recently agreed to between yourself and the other Great Powers, when that between Mehemet and the Porte is concluded, and that Mehemet insists upon all the conditions which he has asked for, many of which you yourself consider unreasonable, will you not be allowing the exaggeration and intemperance of another to direct your own policy from that which is desirable and just?" "I have observed to you," M. Guizot replied, "that my consideration for Mehemet Ali has its bounds. I have told him he must abandon much that he pretends to. I believe he will do so. If he does not, then certainly I shall abandon him."

"Of course," I observed, "you consider his pretension not to pay any tribute for two or three years as out of the question?" "Certainly." "You think he should be bound by the Treaties of the Porte with Foreign Powers?" "Most assuredly." "You deem it proper that the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhane should be the law in Egypt as in the rest of the Ottoman Empire?" "I do. In short," M. Guizot continued, "there are but three points on which the Pasha has any reason to insist:

"1st. The grant of the hereditary succession in the direct male line of his family.

"2nd. The payment of a fixed tribute, instead of what is called the fourth of the revenue of the province he governs;—an evaluation which could never be fairly made, which would occasion all sorts of trouble, and introduce, if it is meant that the object demanded should be really

obtained, a double set of revenue officers, and consequently a double expenditure into the collection of the taxes, as well as never ceasing disputes as to their amount.

"3rd. I think the restriction of his appointment of officers, confining him to the rank of Captain, a hardship and an inconvenience which would render the army, for whose discipline and conduct he is responsible, almost free from his control."

I suggested that this last was practically a minor question, to which M. Guizot rather assented, and seemed to think that it might be possibly settled by Mehemet's presenting the superior officers to the Sultan for approbation, as he would thus have a certain share in their promotion by his recommendation, though the act itself would proceed from the Sultan, and form a natural part of his supreme power.

He then added, "I have thus talked with you on all these matters, because, the subject having been started, I was desirous that you should know my real opinions, and not suppose that I directly or indirectly sustain the Pasha in his unreasonable demands; but I do not pretend to take, on the contrary I most cautiously abstain from taking, any share in the arrangement which may be brought about: I do not wish to be mixed up in it, or to appear in any way in it. I have no conditions to make for Mehemet Ali; I have nothing to do with him or the conditions he may accept. I only say, that until the affairs in the East shall have been settled, I cannot sign a document which begins by declaring that they are so; and besides, I know well enough my parliamentary position, and that I could not so act, even if I were inclined."

As I saw it was no use to endeavour to persuade M. Guizot further towards a step against which he was determined; and as I had at all events obtained his declaration that Mehemet Ali could not fairly insist on more than the three claims I have stated, and that he (M. Guizot) should abandon all consideration for him if he did, I deemed it as well to close the conversation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 234.

Colonel Hodges to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 17.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 30, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 2nd of March, instructing me to return to Alexandria whenever the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian Consuls-General are ready to do so.

I have just returned from seeing the Representatives of Austria and Russia, who have acquainted me, that from recent communications from their Courts they do not consider themselves authorised to direct the return of the Consuls-General of those Powers until they receive further instructions on this head, which they expect to have in a few days.

As for myself, I am ready to proceed to Alexandria at an hour's notice.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. LLOYD HODGES.

No. 235.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Bulwer.

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 20, 1841.

YOUR despatches to No. 11 inclusive, have been received and laid before the Queen.

Her Majesty's Government approve of the language which you have

held in conversation with M. Guizot upon the affairs of the Levant, as reported in your despatch No. 11 of the 16th instant.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 236.

Viscount Palmerston to Lord William Russell.

(No. 24.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1841.

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 18, of the 14th of April, and with reference to that part in which you report that Baron Werther had stated to you that the Prussian Government look upon the Treaty of July as terminated, and will take no further part in the negotiations, I have to instruct your Lordship to state to Baron Werther that a question cannot be really finished merely by saying that it is so; and Prussia having by the Treaty of July taken towards the Sultan and the other three Powers an engagement to determine Mehemet Ali to accept the arrangement specified in that Treaty, Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that Prussia will keep that engagement. But it appears by Mehemet Ali's last letter to the Grand Vizier, that, at the date of that letter, he objected to some of the fundamental points of the arrangement specified in the Treaty of July.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 237.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 93.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 21, 1841.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, inclosing a copy of an instruction given by Prince Metternich to the Internuncio on the 2nd of April, directing him, if necessary, to declare to the Porte, that if the Divan will not adopt the modifications in the firman of the 13th of February, recommended by the Conference of London, His Imperial Majesty will consider himself released from the obligations he contracted by the Treaty of July.

I have to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the view of this matter taken by the Austrian Government, and are prepared to take the same course.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 238.

Mr. Bulwer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 19, 1841.

I HAD the honour last night of a short conversation with His Majesty Louis Philippe, to whom I expressed my regret that the French Government deemed it advisable to delay the signature of the Treaty between the Five Powers.

His Majesty expressed to me a strong desire that the signature

should not be delayed, but said also that he saw no chance of its taking place until the arrangement between Mehemet Ali and the Sultan had been completed. His Majesty seemed to consider that the reported change in the Turkish Government would much expedite this settlement.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 239.

Mr. Bulwer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 19, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to observe that Count Appony has informed me, that he had a conversation with M. Guizot on the subject to which my despatch No. 11 refers, and that that Minister repeated to him almost *verbatim* what he had previously stated to myself.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 240.

Mr. Bulwer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 23, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Guizot was obliging enough to put into my hands a despatch dated the 30th, which he had received from M. de Pontois, and which stated the recent changes that had taken place in the Government at Constantinople. M. de Pontois describes this change as having been long meditated by a powerful party, though its immediate cause was merely a trivial dispute on some commercial matter between the Grand Vizier and the Minister of Commerce, who has been just displaced; and he attributes its success to the influence of certain persons opposed to the recent reforms about the young Sultan, and also to the difficulties which Rechid Pasha, as he says, made to admitting those modifications in the Hatti-Sheriff, which seemed to be desired by the Great Powers, as necessary to a definitive settlement between the Sultan and the Pasha of Egypt. It would appear, that although the late Minister for Foreign Affairs has been stripped of the Order of Honour, and is at present under strict surveillance, he has been assured by His Sublime Highness that he is in no personal danger. The Pasha, however, (he is not remarkable for his courage,) seems to be himself in a state of considerable alarm upon the subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 241.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Vienna, April 13, 1841.

THE present courier bears an instruction to Chekib Effendi, by which the Porte expresses its readiness to modify the firman of investiture to the extent of securing the succession to Ibrahim Pasha, or to such other of Mehemet Ali's sons as he shall designate, reserving at the same time the choice in all subsequent cases to the Sultan, upon the

recommendation of the principal persons of the country. This appears to me the worst mode that has yet been hit upon, as it would expose Egypt to a perpetual native and foreign canvass, in which the principal Powers of Europe would take part. It would transfer to that country in another shape all the evils under which Poland fell. The Porte, however, having conceded thus far, it is to be hoped that the united expression of the sentiments of the Four Powers will obtain the rest.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 242.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 69.)

My Lord,

Vienna, April 14, 1841.

I HAVE communicated to Prince Metternich your Lordship's despatch No. 67 addressed to myself. With the principles and reasonings of that despatch the Prince entirely agrees. He draws, however, a marked distinction as to the relative importance of the objects therein treated. He considers the Four Powers pledged to use their best endeavours with the Sultan to obtain from him the concession of hereditary succession in favour of the descendants of Mehemet Ali, either according to the European rule of primogeniture, or the Eastern one of seniority, under the conditions already repeatedly expressed; but this having been obtained, he considers the remaining matters in dispute between the Sultan and the Pasha as relating merely to administrative affairs, in which the Powers will interfere by counsel for the advantage of both parties, but wherein the advice they may tender will be regulated by circumstances and by the fuller information they may gradually acquire, leaving to them a great latitude of deliberation, and binding them to no specific course of action.

With regard to the tribute, Prince Metternich fully adopts your Lordship's reasonings, and will doubtless assist in obtaining for the Sultan the arrears which Mehemet Ali shows a disposition to withhold, and in deciding the fixation of the amount of tribute at a reasonable sum. Whether a fourth of the gross revenue be a reasonable amount or no, he cannot determine, but he is of opinion that an approach to the knowledge of the amount of net revenue under the new system imposed upon Mehemet Ali is the only basis upon which the proposition of tribute can be justly determined. As a preliminary to this, it is evident that the system of imposts must be previously fixed, and if the calculation is to be made upon these data, it will probably require the employment of Commissioners named for that purpose, before the question can be finally settled. Whenever the principle upon which the tribute is to be determined has been agreed upon, the Prince is of opinion that it will be much for the interest of the Porte to commute the estimated produce for a fixed sum, instead of receiving a proportion of the revenue,—a system which would expose it to constant fraud and uncertainty.

With these additions, your Lordship may consider the views expressed by you in the despatch in question, as having received Prince Metternich's full assent.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 243.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 70.)

My Lord,

Vienna, April 14, 1841.

I HAVE communicated to Prince Metternich your Lordship's instructions to Lord Ponsonby conveyed in your No. 69 to that Ambassador. The Prince entirely agrees with them, and has sent a corresponding instruction to the Internuncio.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 244.

Lord Beauvale to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Vienna, April 14, 1841.

PRINCE METTERNICH has received intelligence of the arrival of the Druse Chiefs from Egypt at Beyrout. The French Consul there immediately sent them word that they owed their liberation to the intervention of France, and prepared a sort of triumphal entry for them, headed by his cavasses. No English or Austrian functionary appears to have taken any part. It is reported that nothing can exceed the activity of this French Consul, and of other French Agents, in communicating with the mountain tribes. Prince Metternich purposes giving greater activity to the Austrian consular department in Syria.

The Turkish force in that country is stated by these advices to amount to 30,000 men, but they are in great want of money, and even their subsistence is unpaid for, which has occasioned urgent reclamations from the districts from which they have been principally supplied.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) BEAUVALE.

No. 245.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 123.)

My Lord,

Therapia, April 6, 1841.

THIS day I have received your Lordship's No. 50, containing draft of a Protocol of a Conference between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and the Sublime Porte, and a draft of a Convention between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, on the one part, and the Sublime Porte on the other part, which have been provisionally agreed to by the respective Plenipotentiaries, and which Her Majesty's Government hope will soon be signed by those Plenipotentiaries.

Your Lordship has not given me any instructions what to do, but I presume I shall not err if I prepare the Sublime Porte for the measure.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 246.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 25.)

(Confidential. No. 124.)

My Lord,

Therapia, April 6, 1841.

I HAVE always executed to the letter your Lordship's instructions and directions, and I am able now to tell you that the Sublime Porte will act in whatever way your Lordship shall advise it to act. It is for our interest to preserve, as well as can be done, the dignity of the Sultan, and it appears that it may be a good deal saved by its being avowed that he acts upon the principle of concession to the wishes of his Allies. There cannot be a doubt, in this country, that Mehemet Ali is to be put in absolute possession of Egypt, but I presume it may be thought right to save appearances, and that it may be my duty to endeavour to direct things as much as I am able, so as to attain that purpose without detriment to the end your Lordship has in view, which I understand to be the arrangement of this affair with Mehemet Ali at any rate.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 247.

Lord William Russell to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

Berlin, April 21, 1841.

I RECEIVED by the Courier Fenessy the correspondence relating to the Oriental Question, and forwarded it to St. Petersburg. The Prussian Government, although very impatient to see the negotiations terminated, and the Conference dissolved, will follow the direction given by the Cabinet of Vienna. This impatience arises from the apprehension that some untoward event may prevent France from reuniting herself to the general European Policy; and the state of Germany, agitated by the desire to obtain more freedom for the people, makes the constituted Governments anxious that France should have no interest in, or pretext for encouraging, the growing agitation. The fall of Rechid Pasha created much uneasiness here, but the last accounts from Constantinople state that the new Ministry was well disposed to follow the advice given by the Allies of the Porte.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM RUSSELL.

No. 248.

Cheikib Effendi to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 28.)

27 Avril, 1841.

L'EXECUTION pleine et entière du Firman Impérial par lequel le Sultan a daigné réintégrer Méhémet Ali dans le Gouvernement de l'Égypte, en accordant, en même tems, la faveur de l'hérédité pour ses descendants, ayant éprouvé quelques difficultés, Sa Hautesse n'a cru faire mieux que de faire un nouvel appel au concours de ses Alliés pour les applanir. En conséquence elle a chargé le Soussigné, Ambassadeur de la Sublime Porte près Sa Majesté Britannique, de soumettre à son Excellence Lord Palmerston, ainsi qu'aux Représentans des Cours Alliées, les points qui ont motivés ces difficultés, et de présenter en même tems à Lord Palmerston la décision que Sa Hautesse vient de faire à ce sujet dans l'intérêt de son empire. Pleine de la confiance dans la bonne intention de ses Alliés en sa faveur, Sa Hautesse espère qu'ils voudront bien réaliser sa décision.

Le Soussigné s'empresse de remettre à son Excellence Lord Palmerston, d'après l'ordre de Sa Hautesse, la copie des instructions qu'il a reçues à cet égard du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, et comptant sur tant de preuves de bienveillance que son Excellence et MM. les Représentans ont montrées pour la cause du Sultan, il ose réclamer leur aide et leur assistance, en les priant de trouver un moyen de résoudre, d'une manière conforme à la décision de Sa Hautesse, les difficultés qui ont arrêté jusqu'ici l'arrangement définitif de la Question Egyptienne.

Le Soussigné saisit, etc.,

(Signé) CHEKIB.

Inclosure in No. 248.

*Instructions transmitted by the Sublime Porte to Chekib Effendi.
(Received from Chekib Effendi (privately) April 25.)*

(Traduction.)

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore pas que le très-honorable Saïd Muhib Effendi a été dernièrement envoyé en Egypte pour apporter à son Excellence Méhémet Ali la bonne nouvelle de la faveur signalée que Sa Hautesse a daigné lui accorder, pour lui remettre le firman Impérial, contenant certaines conditions indispensables, et pour concerter avec lui plusieurs points nécessaires.

Ayant envoyé à votre Excellence des copies du dit firman Impérial, des dépêches, et d'autres pièces qui ont été écrites à ce sujet, nous devons admettre qu'elles lui sont parvenues à l'heure qu'il est, et qu'elle sera ainsi informée de la résolution souveraine et des principes réglementaires qui ont été établies. Votre Excellence verra de même à quel point se trouve actuellement la Question d'Egypte par la lecture des rapports que nous avons reçus récemment de la part de Méhémet Ali, de Saïd Muhib Effendi, et dont nous avons eu également soin de vous transmettre des copies.

Le dit Pacha a refusé d'accepter quelques unes des conditions susmentionnées, procédé que nous trouvons inconvenant, puisqu'il était convenu qu'il prouverait sa prétendue soumission d'une manière non conditionnelle.

Comme donc la Question Egyptienne a été dans tout son cours traitée et réglée de concert et d'accord avec les augustes Cours Alliées, et avec leur assentiment expressément demandé, et comme par conséquent la nature même de l'affaire exige que les points encore en suspens soient également résolus et arrangés d'un commun accord avec les dites Cours, nous avons consulté MM. les quatre Représentans résidant dans cette capitale, en demandant leur avis sur la manière dont la Sublime Porte devait agir dans cette circonstance.

Ils nous ont répondu que la non-acceptation par Méhémet Ali des dits Articles réglementaires n'ayant pas été prévue, ils n'avaient pas pu recevoir là-dessus de nouvelles instructions de leurs Gouvernemens respectifs, et que dès-lors ils ne pouvaient soumettre aucun conseil à Sa Hautesse le Sultan; par conséquent la question a été méditée et discutée entre les Ministres de la Sublime Porte, et il a été décidé qu'on écrirait à votre Excellence dans le sens suivant.

Un des points que Méhémet Ali refuse d'accepter est celui de l'hérédité, qui, selon lui, devrait être réglé d'après le seigniorat. Mais si par la suite un de ses fils majeurs devait être incapable de conduire l'administration du pays, et que le Gouvernement de l'Egypte dût passer comme héritage entre ses mains, l'ordre dans cette province en serait nécessairement troublé. Or, la Sublime Porte ayant à cœur la bonne administration de l'Egypte, tout autant que celle des autres provinces de l'Empire, voulant en outre prévenir tout inconvenient que cette Question pourrait faire naître plus tard, et accorder en même tems au dit Pacha une nouvelle marque de faveur et de bienveillance, elle promet dès à présent de conférer le Gouvernement de l'Egypte à Ibrahim Pacha ou à tel autre de ses fils que Méhémet Ali lui-même choisirait de son vivant, à condition qu'ensuite le droit d'élection appartiendra de nouveau à Sa Hautesse.

Comme seconde alternative nous proposons ce qui suit: le Pacha nous ayant représenté que le véritable caractère et la capacité personnelle de l'individu qui deviendra ensuite Gouverneur de l'Egypte ne pourront pas être connus ici, tandis que là on pourra très bien les apprécier, un de ses descendans devra être choisi en Egypte par les membres de sa famille, et par les notables du pays, et proposé à la Sublime Porte; il sera confirmé et nommé par Sa Hautesse le Sultan.

Pour ce qui concerne les lois civiles et militaires, ce point constitue une des principales stipulations du Traité d'Alliance.

Comme donc les Cours Alliées auront évidemment la bonté d'en faire adopter le principe et les détails, il ne devra pas être question de le modifier, ni de le changer.

La manière de la perception de l'impôt étant sur le point d'être réglée et arrangée ici, les lois et réglemens de la Sublime Porte, tant présens qu'à venir, devant ainsi, qu'il a été établi, être entièrement exécutés en Egypte, les principes qu'on adoptera ici au sujet de la perception de l'impôt, seront aussi observés en Egypte. Bref, il faudra ne pas sortir du cercle des stipulations fondamentales du Traité.

Méhémet Ali Pacha a trouvé exagérée la demande du quart de l'impôt. Mais en égard à la situation de l'Egypte et à son véritable revenu, ce chiffre est proportionné aux ressources du pays, de sorte que votre Excellence devra employer tous ses efforts pour que ce quart nous soit payé, conformément à la première décision. Le revenu du Pacha s'élève au-delà de 600,000 bourses. Si toutefois à présent l'abolition des monopoles et la cessation de certains procédés vexatoires diminueraient le revenu d'environ 200,000 bourses, il en resterait encore 400,000 bourses.

Par la passé, le Pacha entretenait une armée de 80,000 à 100,000 hommes, tandis qu'à présent il n'en aura que 18,000 à 20,000 hommes, ce qui le débarrasse des frais occasionnés par 60,000 à 80,000 hommes de troupes. Les sommes qu'il dépensait jusqu'ici en fourniture pour le Hedjas seront dorénavant payées par le Sultan. En outre, ce quart ne se rapporte pas à tous les produits de l'Egypte, ainsi que le Pacha l'a compris et écrit: il s'applique seulement aux droits de Douane et à toutes les autres recettes de la Province.

Puisque donc, d'après ce qui précède, il est nécessaire que ce quart soit perçu en entier, il faudrait tâcher d'obtenir l'assentiment des Puissances.

Le changement à opérer dans les uniformes des troupes régulières de l'Egypte; la mutation, le désenrôlement de ces mêmes troupes, auxquelles doit être appliqué uniformément le règlement établi pour toutes les troupes régulières de Sa Hautesse; enfin, les promotions militaires qui devront avoir lieu d'après les principes suivis par les autres Gouverneurs; sont des objets d'une haute importance, sur lesquels il faut insister. C'est donc seulement pour le changement des uniformes qu'on donne un court délai.

Quant à la loi de conscription et aux promotions militaires, on devra tâcher d'obtenir l'assentiment des Puissances.

Les divers points qui précèdent, ayant été soumis à la sanction de Sa Hautesse, elle a daigné ordonner que l'on procédât en effet de la manière proposée. Il faut donc, pour ce qui concerne ces questions, recourir au Gouvernement Britannique par l'entremise de votre Excellence, et aux trois autres Gouvernemens par celle de leurs Légations respectives, connaître avant tout leur manière de penser, et agir ensuite en conséquence.

Des copies de la présente dépêche ont été remises aussi aux Représentans des dites Puissances, en leur communiquant en même tems l'état des choses actuelles.

Votre Excellence aura donc, de la manière susmentionnée, à employer tous ses efforts pour obtenir l'assentiment des Cours à ce sujet, et pour faire par là preuve de sagesse, d'habileté, et de savoir faire.

En outre, comme le très-honorable Saïd Muhib Effendi a dû, pour le moment, prolonger un peu son séjour en Egypte, votre Excellence voudra bien, le plutôt possible, faire connaître à la Sublime Porte les communications officielles que le Gouvernement Britannique sera dans le cas de lui

faire au sujet des points susmentionnés, ainsi que les nouvelles marques d'intérêt et de bienveillance qu'il nous donnera à cette occasion.

C'est à cet effet que nous adressons la présente.

No. 249.

Mr. Bulwer to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Paris, April 26, 1841.

I CALLED on Count Appony on Saturday, and he was so obliging as to show me a despatch he had just received from Prince Metternich, in which the Prince (anticipating as certain that the Porte would adopt the suggestions of the Four Powers, and that Mehemet Ali would accept the conditions that would thus be proposed) endeavoured to enforce the necessity of returning at once to the normal state of peace which the affairs of the East had temporarily deranged. "When this condition is once established," said the Prince, as well as I can remember the words, "those States qui sont faits pour se comprendre, can enter into such friendly relations as are advantageous for the interests of each." Count Appony seemed to consider, that although M. Guizot would be willing to lay down a certain portion of the present military establishment of this country, His Majesty King Louis Philippe would, on the contrary, maintain that the preservation of internal tranquillity required every soldier at present under arms; and I thought that the Count himself was rather inclined to believe, that the King would in some degree be justified in using this line of argument.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY L. BULWER.

No. 250.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 28, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 123 of the 6th of April, stating that you proposed to prepare the Porte for the Protocol and Convention, of which drafts were transmitted to your Excellency in my despatch No. 50 of the 16th of March; and I have to acquaint your Excellency that I entirely approve of your having done so.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 251.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 103.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, April 28, 1841.

WITH reference to the concluding passage in your despatch No. 124 of the 6th instant, in which you say that you understand the end which Her Majesty's Government have in view in the Turco-Egyptian Question,

to be the arrangement of the affair with Mehemet Ali at any rate, I have to state to your Excellency that the object which the Four Powers have in view is not exactly an arrangement with Mehemet Ali at any rate; but, as has been stated in the Notes of the Representatives of the Four Powers to Chekib Effendi, an arrangement in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty of July.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 252.

Note from the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, to Chekib Effendi.

Londres, le 10 Mai, 1841.

LES Soussignés, Plénipotentiaires des Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie, ont eu l'honneur de recevoir la Note en date du 27 d'Avril, par laquelle son Excellence Chékib Effendi, Ambassadeur de la Sublime Porte, en leur communiquant les instructions dont il vient d'être muni, a bien voulu en appeler au concours des Puissances Alliées, afin d'applanir les difficultés qui se sont élevées relativement à l'interprétation de quelques unes des dispositions contenues dans les firmans émanés le 13 Février dernier au sujet de l'arrangement définitif des affaires d'Egypte.

Les dispositions à l'égard desquelles la Sublime Porte a désiré connaître l'avis des Quatre Cours Alliées, se réduisent nommément aux trois points suivans:—

1°. La question de l'hérédité.

2°. La fixation du tribut.

3°. Les promotions militaires.

Les règles générales qui servent à résoudre ces trois questions ont été déterminées en principe par la Convention que la Sublime Porte a conclue le 15 Juillet, 1840, avec les Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie.

C'est donc aux principes posés par cette transaction que les Soussignés ont cru devoir se référer dans les communications qu'ils ont eu l'honneur d'adresser successivement à M. l'Ambassadeur Ottoman, nommément dans leurs notes du 30 Janvier, et du 13 Mars. En se fondant sur la même base, les Soussignés, pour répondre au désir exprimé par son Excellence Chékib Effendi, s'empressent de lui offrir les éclaircissemens suivans.

1°. *La Question de l'Hérédité.*

LE Sultan, en réalisant l'intention que Sa Hautesse avait manifesté dès l'origine de la crise du Levant, a formellement annoncé la détermination de conserver héréditairement l'administration du Pachalic d'Egypte dans la famille de Méhémet Ali, tant que lui et ses descendans se rendront dignes de cette faveur, en remplissant fidèlement les conditions qui y sont attachées.

Ce principe, une fois légalement posé par l'autorité souveraine du Sultan, il ne reste qu'à régler le mode d'après lequel le poste de Gouverneur d'Egypte sera transmise d'un membre de la famille de Méhémet Ali à l'autre.

Or, il a été établi que cette transmission se fera au moyen de l'investiture que le Sultan accordera au nouveau titulaire.

C'est d'accord avec ce principe, que Sa Hautesse, en réintégrant Méhémet Ali dans les fonctions de Gouverneur d'Egypte, a daigné lui adresser le firman du 13 Février.

De plus, par une disposition spéciale que le Sultan a cru devoir communiquer à ses Alliés, ce souverain a dispensé Méhémet Ali de se rendre à Constantinople pour recevoir dans cette capitale l'investiture de son Pachalic.

En même tems, Sa Hautesse a daigné déclarer qu'elle dispensait également Ibrahim Pacha de se rendre à Constantinople, lorsqu'il serait appelé à remplacer Méhémet Ali dans les fonctions de Pacha; et que le firman d'investiture lui serait alors envoyé en Egypte.

En adoptant cette disposition, telle qu'elle a été communiquée aux Cours Alliées, la Sublime Porte a indiqué elle-même le mode d'après lequel Sa Hautesse se proposait de pourvoir à l'administration du Pachalic d'Egypte héréditairement dans la famille de Méhémet Ali.

D'après ce mode, et conformément aux usages établis dans l'Empire Ottoman, c'est donc Ibrahim Pacha qui, à titre de plus agé dans la famille, se trouve éventuellement appelé à succéder à Méhémet Ali dans le poste de Gouverneur d'Egypte.

En vertu de la même règle, le plus agé de la famille après Ibrahim Pacha sera considéré comme destiné à remplacer Ibrahim dans la charge de Gouverneur du Pachalic d'Egypte.

Telle est la règle générale que les Plénipotentiaires des Cours Alliées regardent comme la mieux adaptée aux intérêts de la Sublime Porte et la plus analogue aux usages établis dans l'Empire Ottoman.

En répondant ainsi à l'appel que M. l'Ambassadeur Ottoman vient de leur adresser, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, ils ont cru devoir constater que la nomination au poste de Gouverneur d'Egypte appartient exclusivement à Sa Hautesse; que ce droit s'exerce et se manifeste chaque fois par l'investiture conférée au nouveau titulaire; enfin, que cette investiture, accordée par l'autorité Souveraine, constitue le titre en vertu duquel chaque nouveau Gouverneur sera appelé à administrer l'Egypte au nom de Sa Hautesse comme une province faisant partie intégrante de l'Empire Ottoman.

2°. Fixation du Tribut.

L'Acte Séparé annexé à la Convention du 15 Juillet, n'a point statué sur la quotité du tribut.

Il a posé seulement en principe:

Que le tribut serait payé annuellement à la Porte;

Qu'il serait proportionné à l'étendue du territoire dont l'administration serait confiée à Méhémet Ali;

Qu'à condition du paiement régulier du tribut, le Pacha d'Egypte percevrait, au nom du Sultan et comme délégué de Sa Hautesse, les taxes et impôts légalement établis;

Enfin, que moyennant la perception de ces impôts, le Pacha d'Egypte pourvoira à toutes les dépenses de l'administration civile et militaire du dit Pachalic.

En rappelant ici ces dispositions établies en principe par la Convention du 15 Juillet, les Plénipotentiaires des Cours Signataires de cette transaction croiraient dépasser les limites de leurs attributions s'ils émettaient une opinion décisive sur le montant du tribut—question financière relative à l'administration intérieure de l'Empire Ottoman, que les Soussignés, ainsi qu'ils l'ont déjà exprimé dans leur Note du 13 Mars, ne regardent point comme étant de leur ressort.

De plus, ne possédant pas les données statistiques nécessaires pour servir de base à un jugement solide sur les ressources financières de l'Egypte, ils ne sauraient prononcer aucun avis sur la quotité du revenu annuel que le trésor de la Sublime Porte peut retirer de cette province.

Néanmoins, pour satisfaire, autant qu'il est en leur pouvoir, au vœu exprimé par son Excellence Chékib Effendi au nom de la Sublime Porte, ils croient devoir émettre l'idée, qu'au lieu d'affecter au tribut à payer par le Pacha, une partie proportionnelle du revenu brut de l'Egypte, il serait préférable, dans l'intérêt bien-entendu de la Porte, de déterminer le chiffre du tribut par une somme fixe; ce qui assurerait au trésor de Sa Hautesse une recette positive. Toutefois, vu que les bases d'après lesquelles le montant de cette somme serait déterminé, pourraient être sujettes à varier par la suite du tems, il serait peut-être utile que le montant nominal de la dite somme fût soumis à révision à l'expiration de certaines époques.

3°. Promotions Militaires.

Le paragraphe 6 de l'Acte Séparé de la Convention du 15 Juillet porte, que les forces de terre et de mer que pourra entretenir le Pacha d'Egypte, faisant partie des forces de l'Empire Ottoman, seront toujours considérées comme entretenues pour le service de l'Etat.

D'après ce principe, les forces militaires employées en Egypte étant celles de Sa Hautesse le Sultan, les officiers de terre et de mer n'obtiendront leur avancement qu'en vertu de l'autorité seule du Souverain à qui appartiennent l'armée et la flotte Ottomanes.

En partant de ce principe, qui est d'une application générale, les Soussignés ne sauraient attacher qu'une importance secondaire à la difficulté qui s'est élevée relativement à la question des promotions militaires en Egypte. C'est au Sultan qu'il appartient de déléguer à cet égard les pouvoirs qu'il jugera nécessaire de confier aux Gouverneurs d'Egypte, en se réservant d'étendre ou de restreindre ces pouvoirs selon que l'expérience et les besoins du service pourront en démontrer l'opportunité.

Si dans la présente Note les Soussignés ont cru devoir borner leurs observations aux trois points ci-dessus mentionnés, c'est que par leurs Notes Collectives du 30 Janvier, du 13 Mars, et par le Protocole du 5 Mars, ils ont déjà prononcé leur jugement quant aux autres conditions renfermées dans l'Acte Séparé annexé à la Convention du 15 Juillet, 1840.

Persévérant dans les vues et opinions qu'ils ont manifestées par les dits Actes, les Soussignés croient devoir s'y référer. Ils ne peuvent considérer la soumission formellement faite par Méhémet Ali que comme absolue; et par conséquent la Question Turco-Egyptienne comme terminée.

Dès lors les Soussignés ne sauraient admettre la supposition, que ce Pacha, en reconnaissance du pardon que le Sultan a daigné lui accorder, et des faveurs que Sa Hautesse lui a conférées ainsi qu'à sa famille, ne se maintienne dans les bornes de l'obéissance et de la soumission qui sont les conditions de ce pardon et de ces faveurs.

Les Plénipotentiaires des Cours d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, et de Russie, en communiquant ces observations à son Excellence Chékib Effendi, l'invitent à vouloir bien les porter à la connaissance de sa Cour, comme devant servir de complément au contenu de leur Note Collective du 13 Mars dernier.

Les Soussignés, &c.,
(Signé)

ESTERHAZY. NEUMANN.
PALMERSTON.
BULOW.
BRUNNOW.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

No.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

AFFAIRS OF THE LEVANT.

PART III.

Foreign Office, May, 1841.

CORRESPONDENCE